

THE TIMES Monday

Eurocommunism
Eurocommunism today:
Part One of a four-part
series by Edward
Mortimer and our
European correspondents
Germany now
City life in Germany on
either side of the Iron
Curtain
Godparents
With another Royal baby
expected, Monday page
looks at the joys and
duties of being a
godparent like, perhaps,
Harry Seconbe (below)



Ice Hockey Will Russia's
Big Red Machine get
revenge for the
humiliation of 1980 in
the final event of the
Winter Olympics?
Old maids
The pleasures of being an
old maid - or not, as the
case may be: Penny
Perrick reflects on a new
book

MPs issue writs over Panorama

Writs claiming damages for
libel were served on the BBC by
two Conservative MPs, Mr Neil
Hamilton, Taunton, and Mr
Gerald Howarth, Cannock and
Burntwood. They relate to the
Panorama programme alleging
links between Conservative
MPs and right-wing extremists.

Children in care

Mr Jerry Hayes, Conservative
MP for Harlow, is to seek leave
to introduce a Bill giving
parents stronger rights to
challenge decisions to take their
children into care or to deny
them access

Glenn gloom

Senator John Glenn is failing to
make headway in his
campaign to win the Demo-
cratic nomination, trailing
Senator Walter Mondale by 35
points

Powell warning

Mr Enoch Powell has again
pointed to the prospect of
conflict "a generation or two
ahead" because of the growth of
immigrant populations in
English cities

Envoy resigns

President Reagan's special
Central America envoy, Mr
Richard Stone, has resigned
because of a personality clash

Voters' list row

Labour-controlled Camden
Council in north London,
facing a strong challenge in a
by-election, is taking High
Court action to reinstate 149
names deleted from the voters'
list

Drugs concern

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister
for Health, was said to be
"concerned and surprised"
at reports that doctors are still
prescribing drugs withdrawn on
safety grounds

Last word

Rising house prices and bigger
pensions, make it imperative
that you revise your will
regularly. Family money, page 25

Favourites win

Southampton, the FA Cup
favourites, qualified for the
sixth round with a 1-0 victory
over Blackburn Rovers.
Armstrong scored early in the
second half

Leader page 9

Letters: On the countryside,
from Mr N. Barber; Tories and
BBC: from Lord Greenhill of
Harrow; and Mr J. V. C.
Butcher
Leading articles: Political levy:
The Titian
Features: page 8
The choice facing the BBC:
France's right-wing challenge:
new shock waves from the
Getty bequest; asset-stripping
off the Falklands; Sir Roy
Strong laments the departed
domestic
Obituary, page 10
Georges Wakhevitch, Mr C. H.
G. Mills

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Gemayel's survival deal spurned by Israel and Syria

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

President Gemayel's hastily concocted "peace plan" to stave off political and military disaster for his regime in Lebanon appeared to have failed yesterday even before it had been officially announced.

For the eight-point document, which he was said to have signed on Thursday night, was in reality an unsigned offer to abrogate his country's unofficial peace treaty with Israel - but only in conjunction with a series of proposals, some of which have already been rejected by the Syrians, Israelis and Lebanese opposition.

Israel has refused to accept the destruction of the May 17 agreement, while the Syrians were making it clear last night that they would not contemplate a simultaneous military withdrawal with Israel - one of the seven other proposals made by Mr Gemayel.

Druze and Shia Muslim opposition leaders condemned the plan in advance before they realized that it would involve the return of the Lebanese Army to west Beirut. Unsurprisingly, perhaps, American officials in the Lebanese capital last night expressed themselves sceptical that the proposals would be accepted.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia was part-author of the plan, and Mr Gemayel last night said that it was broad-based and would lead to "National reconciliation and the unity of the country."

Through the proposals, the President said, Lebanon expected "A new era with the Syrians." He had heard nothing from the Israelis, but agreed that Lebanon would have to discuss the proposals with them.

With an optimism born of desperation rather than reality, Mr Elsie Salem, the Lebanese

Foreign Minister, said it was "a very daring plan that will have the enthusiastic support of all Lebanese," but it appeared that little prior consultation had taken place with either Syria or Israel.

As outlined by Mr Salem yesterday, the Gemayel proposals were:

- Implementation of the security plan put forward last month, which would replace Phalangist militias south of Beirut.
- Cancellation of the May 17 troop withdrawal agreement with Israel. (Syria has demanded the abrogation of this unofficial peace treaty between Lebanon and Israel since it was made public, but Israel insists it will not accept its cancellation.)
- The working out of security arrangements in southern Lebanon. (Mr Salem yesterday said that "Lebanon accepts that Israel would not withdraw until there are security guarantees for its northern border". Syria would accept a Lebanese-Israeli military agreement which guarantees both sides of the frontier from aggression by either side, but Israel would

demand far more sophisticated and cast-iron promises than Mr Salem's reference to security guarantees).

● Agreement on "internal reforms" - presumably a restructuring of power in favour of the Muslims within the Government, which would be discussed at a second Geneva reconciliation conference.

● Agreement with Syria to withdraw its forces from Lebanon. (Mr Salem described this as an extremely important item but had apparently not discussed it with his Syrian opposite number).

● Withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon "on the principle of simultaneous withdrawals" (Mr Salem said foreign forces will withdraw three months after an agreement is reached with Israel on the basis of security arrangements. The Syrians have always refused to withdraw simultaneously with the Israelis on the grounds that Syria's army was invited into Lebanon in 1976 and therefore had a legitimate presence, while Israel's army invaded).

● All the points in the plan are to be considered as a package.

● A government of national unity will be formed to implement the plan. (Mr Salem said it would "include all prominent leaders and should, by necessity, include the leaders of the (pro-Syrian) National Salvation Front and the leader of Amal, or their representatives").

Mr Salem said President Gemayel would only cancel the May 17 agreement if all the proposals were accepted.

In Damascus yesterday, Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister, met his Saudi counterpart to discuss the plan.

ON PAGE FOUR White House disarray Warning by Israel Italians stand firm

Beirut and Druze militias in the Kharoub region with units of the Lebanese Army. (The plan was drawn up last month before the militias captured west Beirut. It would thus almost certainly involve the re-entry of the Army into the Muslim sector of the capital. Druze militias have already captured part of the Kharoub and almost driven the Phalangist off the highway south of Beirut.

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US orders Marines out of Beirut

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan gave formal orders last night for United States troops to begin leaving Beirut this weekend to warships off the Lebanese coast. All but about 400 will be out within 30 days, ending 18 months of military entanglement.

In that time, 264 American military personnel have died, most of them in one mighty explosion last November. Mr Reagan quietly gave the order to get out during a session at the

White House with Mr Robert McFarlane, his National Security Adviser.

The 30-day clock started ticking yesterday.

The mood in Washington is grim. Some Democratic presidential opponents are talking openly about the "waste" of American lives. Events have careered away from American control and Mr George Shultz, Secretary of State, has gone to the Bahamas for a long week-

end. "It would be rash to say anything particularly optimistic," he said.

The Administration says the Marines will not be threatened during their departure because of an understanding with rebellious Muslim factions who have indicated that they see no advantage in trying to block access to the beach. US commanders have been told to accelerate the withdrawal if events turn hostile.

Falklands reply by Argentina

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Argentina has delivered its formal reply to a British proposal for renewing commercial and diplomatic relations severed after the Falklands war, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday.

The Argentine response to a series of "specific ideas" put forward by the Foreign Office on January 26 was channelled through the Brazilian Embassy in Buenos Aires. Brazil represents Argentine interests in London.

The Foreign Ministry released no details, but sources said earlier in the week that Argentina would include "new ideas."

The Foreign Minister, Señor Dante Caputo, and other officials, have hinted in recent weeks that Argentina could drop its insistence on the discussion of sovereignty as a precondition to beginning conversations with London.

● Two Channels: The Foreign Office confirmed last night that it had received the Argentine reply, not from the Brazilians but from the Swiss through the British embassy in Bern, yesterday afternoon (Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent, writes).

A formal response is also expected to arrive through the Brazilians.

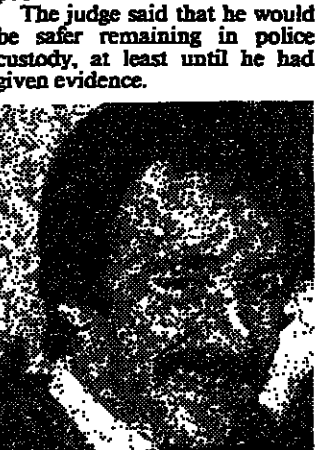
£26m robbery guard jailed for 6 years

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A security guard who provided inside information for the record £26m robbery of a high security warehouse was sentenced to six years' imprisonment yesterday after the Central Criminal Court was told that he had confessed his role, turned informant and was prepared to give Queen's Evidence.

Sentencing Anthony Black, aged 31, of Ashford, Middlesex, the Common Sergeant, Mr David Tudor Price, said that he and his family would "forever be fugitives from those who you so stupidly and wickedly helped."

The judge said that he would be safer remaining in police custody, at least until he had given evidence.



Anthony Black: "Forever a fugitive".

Last night the Home Office said that the request was being considered. Black, who had been kept at Paddington Green police station in north London since he was charged last December, was taken to prison under heavy escort after his court appearance.

He had pleaded guilty to the robbery of more than £26m worth of gold, platinum, diamonds and travellers cheques on November 26 last year from his supervisor at the Brinks-Mat depot near Heathrow airport.

The court was told that he had given three armed raiders details of the workings of the warehouse, passed them a key for copying and signalled the start of the raid. When he confessed to the police he provided details of the planning and the identification of the people with whom he dealt.

Mr Timothy Cassel, for the prosecution, said: "This information has enabled the police to arrest and charge three other persons... needless to say he is in some danger."

Commander Frank Cater, head of the Flying Squad, said that Black needed protection. The proceeds of the robbery had not been recovered and those responsible had "any amount of money" available.

Background, page 3

The great escape



Double trouble for Neil Fearn, an apprentice jockey, in the Stanley Conditional Jockeys Handicap Chase at Sandown Park yesterday. First he falls from his mount. Plundering, on the first circuit and then, before he can rise to his feet, he is knocked to the ground again by a following horse. Happily Fearn had no need of the stretcher. After lying winded for some moments he was able to walk away virtually unscathed (Photographs by Ian Stewart).

Riot police to move lorries out

The French Government decided yesterday to send in paramilitary CRS police. Troops, helicopters and military aircraft to clear main roads paralysed by angry French lorry drivers.

The drivers are demanding compensation for time wasted during a customs strike on the France-Italian border.

Customs officers on both sides of the border resumed work yesterday, but the drivers decided to go ahead with their action, timed to coincide with the start of the traditional winter sports holiday period, when up to a million cars are expected on the roads.

Huge traffic jams built up on main roads out of Paris and police reported only two main routes out of the capital clear as holidaymakers prepared to leave. There were also heavy traffic jams elsewhere in France.

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Politburo struggles in secret

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Soviet television last night failed to announce details of Thursday's Politburo session, arousing fresh speculation about divisions within the ruling body. The regular Thursday Politburo meeting was said to have been held as usual but failure to report it could be a deliberate departure from the Andropov era.

Under Mr Andropov it became regular practice for the Soviet media to report Politburo meetings, giving a brief account of the agenda and main speakers. The sessions, held on Thursdays, had been secret during the Brezhnev years.

Diplomats said there could be only be three explanations for last night's omission: the Politburo had not met this week because of the aftermath of President Andropov's funeral; Mr Chernenko had decided to revert to the secrecy of the Brezhnev era; or factional disagreements prevented the issuing of an agreed version of the meeting.

First reports of Politburo discussion surfaced on Thursday with the publication in booklet form of the official account of Monday's extraordinary plenum at which Mr Chernenko, aged 72, was elected general secretary. It revealed that a closing speech had been made by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, aged 52, the technocratic contender for the leadership. Mr Gorbachev had appealed for party unity after the outcome of the succession struggle.

Last night's television news opened with report of Mr Chernenko's meetings in the Kremlin with the leaders of Mongolia and Madagascar, Mr Yumzhagin Tsedenbal, and President Dider Ritsiraka.

Lawyers defeated on home sales

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Solicitors acknowledged defeat bravely yesterday in the face of government proposals to end their monopoly on conveyancing, the profession's biggest single source of income, and to let banks and building societies do the work.

Accepting the loss, the Law Society welcomed the setting up of a government committee to determine safeguards under which licensed non-solicitor conveyancers will operate.

But it attacked the Government's proposal that solicitors in banks and building societies should be permitted to undertake conveyancing for customers, arguably a far bigger financial threat to the profession.

The Law Society said that that posed such overwhelming dangers "in terms of potentially serious conflict of interests, the loss to the public of independent and impartial advice, and the inevitable reduction in freedom of choice and in competition" that legislation would not be justified.

Banks, building societies and consumers all welcomed the proposals. Mr David Tench, legal officer of the Consumers' Association, which has led the lobby for reform, predicted possible cuts of one third in conveyancing fees on a second-hand house with a registered title. That would mean a saving of £100 on a house price of £30,000.

The Building Societies Association welcomed the proposals and a senior employee at the National Westminster Bank headquarters said: "We see this as a way of strengthening our foot in the mortgage market."

He envisaged a mortgage and conveyancing "package" whereby conveyancing was offered along with the mortgage and its cost "hidden" by being spread with mortgage repayments. It could be worth £25m for all the banks.

Banks would probably offer conveyancing first to employees compulsorily moved as part of their work, he said. For all five main clearing banks that could be worth £3.5m of the conveyancing market.

The Law Society last year pursued a series of unsuccessful prosecutions against non-licensed conveyancers. It will still put the case for solicitors only to do the work, but accepts that if change is to happen it should be by way of licensed conveyancers.

On the thorny issue of advertising, which the Law Society has always opposed as regards the price of work, it said yesterday that it would enter into discussions.

Two groups of conveyancers, the National Institute of Conveyancing Agents and the National Association of Conveyancers welcomed the proposals.

Government to act, page 2

Connery awarded £2.8m damages

By Kenneth Gosling

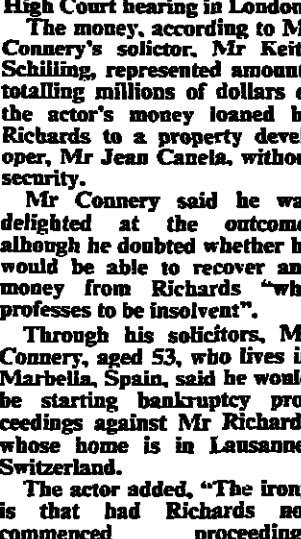
Sean Connery, the James Bond star, has been awarded £2.8m damages against Kenneth Richards, his former financial adviser and accountant. The figure is believed to be one of the biggest made to an individual and came after a High Court hearing in London.

The money, according to Mr Connery's solicitor, Mr Keith Schilling, represented amounts totalling millions of dollars of the actor's money loaned by Richards to a property developer, Mr Jean Canella, without security.

Mr Connery said he was delighted at the outcome, although he doubted whether he would be able to recover any money from Richards "who professes to be insolvent".

Through his solicitors, Mr Connery, aged 53, who lives in Marbella, Spain, said he would be starting bankruptcy proceedings against Mr Richards whose home is in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The actor added, "The irony is that had Richards not commenced proceedings



Connery: Unlikely to recover his £2.8m.

against me in England, I would probably still be awaiting the outcome of proceedings in Switzerland, seven years after those proceedings commenced."

Mr Schilling said the money loaned to Canella could not be repaid and Mr Connery then began proceedings in Switzerland against Mr Richards for breach of contract and negligence.

In 1981, a claim was brought by Mr Richards in England for a share of the actor's earnings - including money from the Bond films, which included *You Only Live Twice* and *Diamonds Are Forever*. The latest film to be released starring Sean Connery as Bond in *Never Say Never Again*.

That claim was withdrawn and a year later, again in London, Mr Connery was awarded a £1m interim payment in the High Court against Mr Richards.

At that time, Mr Connery described the proceedings since 1978 as "a constant nightmare".

Mr Schilling said last night that bankruptcy proceedings in this country against Mr Richards were imminent.

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Royal ray of sunshine for The Gambia

From Susan Macdonald, Banjul, The Gambia

Princess Anne's four-day visit to The Gambia brings an extra air of festivity and importance to a tiny African country, plagued by drought and malnutrition, as it celebrates its Independence Day today.

The visit is a source of pride to The Gambia, which more and more finds itself overshadowed by its big neighbour Senegal under the Senegambian confederation.

The Princess is visiting both The Gambia and Upper Volta as president of the British section of the Save the Children Fund. She is also guest of honour at the ninetieth

anniversary celebrations of The Gambia's independence.

Last night President Jawara announced a pardon for 27 people under sentence of death for their part in the attempted coup of July, 1981, when the President was in London for Prince Charles's wedding. Sixteen of those pardoned have now been sentenced to life imprisonment or 11 to 20 years' imprisonment. Another five or six people still under sentence of death have appeals pending.

The last British royal visitor was the Duke of Kent, who attended the independence celebrations of 1965. And there is nothing like a royal visit to

attract the crowds, even in The Gambia's capital, Banjul, that looks like a suburb in search of a city centre. Foreign ambassadors living in the relative comfort of the Senegalese capital Dakar have hooted it down to Banjul for independence day this year.

Stories of this miniature Commonwealth country being run by just 14 of its British colonial masters in days of old are easy to believe. These days the British High Commission is a five-man team under Mr David Le Breton.

Princess Anne flew into Banjul on Thursday evening

from Morocco on an aircraft of the Queen's Flight and spent yesterday in and around Banjul. Dressed in a simple, quite sombre, green shirtwaister with white sensible shoes, no hat and her hair in a bun at her neck, she saw the British-run Medical Research Council, one of Africa's main tropical disease research centres.

She was also given the key to the city of Banjul, met President Jawara, visited a British-backed port enlargement project and a groundnut oil mill, all in the boiling sun with temperatures around 86°F.

Last night she attended a presidential reception.

Minister concerned that withdrawn drugs can still be prescribed

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Family doctors are free to continue prescribing drugs which have been withdrawn from the market for safety reasons, but the Minister for Health, Mr Kenneth Clarke, yesterday expressed concern that such drugs will still be available.

Mr Clarke was briefed by Department of Health and Social Security officials yesterday after newspaper reports alleged that four drugs withdrawn after being linked with the deaths of patients were still being dispensed in chemists' shops.

The drugs include Zomax, a painkiller which was withdrawn by its manufacturers in March 1983, the anti-arthritis drugs Osmosin, withdrawn last September, and Flostin, withdrawn last December, and the antidepressant Zelmid.

Despite the conclusion reached by the Government's Committee on Safety of Medicines that the drugs should no longer be available, newspaper reports yesterday showed that they were still being prescribed by doctors and dispensed by pharmacists.

The under-secretary of the British Medical Association, Dr Frank Wells, said: "I am dismayed and should like to

seen an inquiry. If a drug is withdrawn it is because it is in the interests of the safety of the public. The drug companies should ensure that the withdrawal is as absolute as possible."

The Committee on Safety of Medicines said: "It is a doctor's clinical freedom to prescribe what he thinks best for his patients. It is interesting that these drugs are still being prescribed, but not remarkable or shocking."

Mr Clarke was said to be "concerned and surprised" at the continued availability of the drugs. But a Department of Health official said: "It is not illegal for either a doctor to prescribe them or a pharmacist to dispense them, even after the committee has called for their withdrawal."

"A doctor has the right to treat a patient as he sees fit, and a pharmacist cannot deny him the medication which the doctor has prescribed."

"In practice, a chemist would probably contact the doctor and remind him that the drug had been withdrawn. The doctor could then say that, even so, he wished that particular patient to continue receiving the treatment."

"It can often be the case that a drug which is known to have hazardous side-effects for some patients continues to be beneficial to others."

"In the case of an elderly patient suffering from arthritis, the doctor may have to decide whether to risk that patient developing an ulcer in two years' time by prescribing drug, or whether that patient should have two years of daily pain and discomfort because no other drug will provide the same relief."

The withdrawal of other drugs in the past had led to many hundreds or even thousands of complaints to the department from patients and doctors, the official said.

There was anecdotal evidence in the case of the withdrawal of the anti-arthritis drug Opren that some patients had taken their own lives because they could no longer tolerate the pain which the drug had relieved.

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, wrote to Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary for Social Services yesterday, saying: "It is scandalous that doctors are still prescribing banned and withdrawn drugs."



Nurses likely to get full pay award

From Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent, Chesterfield

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, strongly indicates yesterday that the Government would abide by the review body verdict on nurses' and midwives pay.

The 460,000 National Health Service nurses and midwives have claimed an increase of about 20 per cent, with a £100-a-week minimum from April 1, although Whitehall has budgeted for 3 per cent increase on its £2,767m pay bill.

But Mr Nicholas Bourne, Conservative candidate in the Chesterfield by-election, told a meeting organised by the Royal College of Nursing on Thursday that the review would be binding.

He said that it would be inconceivable that the body's recommendation could be rejected by the Prime Minister and that it would be totally unacceptable if money pay rises was taken out of the overall health budget, with cuts in services.

Mr Fowler told a press conference yesterday that the report, expected to go to Mrs Thatcher within the next month or so, could not auto-

matically bind the Government. "But having said that, we did not set up the review body in order to reject its findings."

He spoke of a "strong presumption" that the recommendations would be implemented.

Mr Tony Benn, the Labour candidate, explained party pay policy, "an extension of collective bargaining", saying that a Labour government would agree with the unions broad budget targets and departmental cash limits.

Mr Fowler described as petty two of Mr Benn's more extreme by-election statements: that the Government gave greater priority to arming the police with CS gas and rubber bullets than to eradicating breast cancer, and that the attempt to ban unions at GCHQ was the start of a campaign to make all trade unions illegal.

Mr David Steel, Liberal Party leader, yesterday visited Chesterfield to support the campaign of Mr Max Fyfe. Mr Steel said that the election would not be fooled by the show of harmony being put on for Mr Benn by the Kinloch-Hattersley leadership.

Unions to back rebels at GCHQ

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Civil Service union leaders are preparing to support staff at the Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham if an agreement on union membership cannot be reached with the Prime Minister before the March 1 deadline.

The strategy will probably be finalized next week, but the unions are considering an early declaration of their intention to give legal and financial support to any one facing dismissal for refusing to revoke union membership.

The unions believe they must reassure members in view of Mrs Thatcher's firm stance over the past three days, which has diminished much of their optimism that a compromise could be reached to preserve union membership at GCHQ.

But they have to find a formula which will avoid large payments which could bankrupt some unions.

Union leaders dispute reports that up to half of the 7,000 staff at GCHQ have signed the forms. They believe the figure to be not much more than 1,000.

Voters' list row goes to High Court

By David Nicholson-Lord

A Labour-controlled council facing a strong challenge in a by-election next week is taking High Court action to reinstate 149 names deleted from the list of voters by its officers this week.

Labour leaders of Camden Council in north London, instructed officials to go to court after the names, some of them apparently duplicates, were struck off because they were submitted late. The SDP Liberal Alliance, which brought the discrepancy to light and has accused the council of electoral malpractice, is to contest the court action.

The dispute centres on the Arlington House hostel for homeless men, part of the Chalk Farm ward where the by-election is being held next Thursday. The hostel has close links with local Labour activists, including Mr Richard Stein, the candidate.

Despite being handed in on December 19, missing the December 16 closing date, the list was accepted by the council but hurriedly deleted on Thursday after complaints from the other parties.

Among the apparent oddities of the list compiled from the hostel's 800 residents were the inclusion of a Keams Hugh as well as a Hugh Keams, a Thompson Henry and a Henry Thompson, three James Gallagher and several other identical or near-identical pairs of names, including an Arthur Cundance and an Arthur Cundance and two Frederick J. Kellys. Some of these have been deleted.

The council and the Labour Party yesterday strongly denied accusations of malpractice and blamed a series of administrative errors, coupled with the extreme difficulty of securing an accurate electoral return for a large and shifting hostel population.

Mr Stein, who is chairman of the Arlington House Action Group, said: "It was an innocent mistake which the Tories have picked up for political purposes. There is no question of anything being falsified. Nobody involved thinks it is anything other than an administrative problem."

Among the reasons for the errors, according to the action group, were allowing Arlington residents to add their names if they thought they were left out of draft lists posted in the hostel, and inadvertent double entries by the group and the council.

The commission explained that it and the Government had decided that releasing any details about individual sales might put off potential buyers. MPs complained on Monday that the commission refused even to disclose the reserve prices put on plantations before selling them.

Board angered as advice is ignored

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

A group which advises the Government on the Youth Training Scheme (YTS) is to decide next month whether it should continue to operate after some complaints from some members that ministers are ignoring its advice.

The Youth Training Board, which comprises unions, employers, voluntary organizations and local authorities, is angry because it feels that its advice on training issues and the scheme has not been accepted or considered seriously. A meeting of the board decided yesterday to postpone any discussion about its future until next month.

Mr Donny O'Rourke, who represents the British Youth Council on the board, said last night: "There is an increasing feeling that we are wasting our time."

"It would take a very great deal to make us resign because we have a job to do representing young people in the scheme, but we are certainly asking ourselves what is the point when we give advice and are then told that it is not wanted."

The issue that has brought the matter to a head was the refusal by Mr Peter Morrison, Minister of State at the Department of Employment, to reconsider plans to reduce the number of YTS community-based places by about 25 per cent next year.

Mr Morrison would give no indication to a delegation from the board that he was prepared to reconsider cutting places for youngsters to carry out community work.

The board's disappointment will be reported to next week's meeting of the Manpower Services Commission which operates the scheme and oversees the board's operations. Other complaints lodged by the board criticize the Government's refusal to consult with it on its plans to hand over the commission about 25 per cent of work-related training in further education colleges.

Extra year to sell off woodlands

By Hugh Clayton

The Forestry Commission has given the extra year to meet its target of raising £82m from selling woodlands.

The commission said yesterday that it would not drop its policy of refusing to give details of individual sales, in spite of complaints from MPs in the Commons. Public Accounts Committee on Monday that information should be given about land which is a public asset.

The new deadline, the end of March 1987, was announced in the Commons yesterday by Mr John MacKay, Under Secretary of State at the Scottish Office, after the Government had decided not to change the amount which the commission is expected to raise from selling land and growing timber. Only £37m has been raised so far.

The commission said that it welcomed the extra year, but would not say whether it had asked for it.

The commission explained that it and the Government had decided that releasing any details about individual sales might put off potential buyers. MPs complained on Monday that the commission refused even to disclose the reserve prices put on plantations before selling them.

No end to immigration Powell says

By Our Political Editor

Mr Enoch Powell yesterday raised, as he has before, the prospect of inter-communal conflict "a generation or two ahead" born of the expansion of the immigrant populations of English cities.

He said he had for years tried but so far failed to induce those in authority to "face the people with the facts" so that action, which he did not describe, would have to be taken.

Speaking to Nottingham University Conservatives, Mr Powell, official Ulster Unionist MP for South Down, said the public perception of the mass immigration into Britain from the New Commonwealth and Pakistan since the Second World War had changed and was still changing.

It was now realized that the idea of finality was obsolete; that immigration, particularly Asian immigration, was not in practice terminable; and that the true problem concerned the implications of the present make-up of the population.

In that present was contained a future, he said, in which the New Commonwealth and Pakistan ethnic population would be, at the theoretical minimum, a quarter of Greater London, a third of Inner London and of Birmingham and more than a third of Leicester.

Mr Powell said he was encouraged by the discovery by the British that they were not alone. The "phenomenon" had become startlingly similar across the Channel.

"The 'guest-workers' of the Continent have become imbedded with the people of these years not only in the economies but in the populations of the Western European nations."

"The French no longer laugh at our predicament; the Germans no longer affect superiority. Their guest-workers have attracted families."

Our contemporaries in Europe, projecting their demographic future, were asking: "Are we entitled just to let it happen?"

To ask question, and to point to the ability and duty of states, by taking concerted action, to avert and reverse the accumulation of the materials of future conflict, was no longer impossible.

Government to act on conveyancing

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Backbench pressure and public opinion has forced the Government to make the whole business of house transfer cheaper and more efficient.

In return for the withdrawal by Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, of his private member's House Buyers Bill, ministers have given firm promises of early action to:

● allow solicitors employed by the State, building societies and other organizations to do conveyancing

● allow competition from non-solicitor conveyancers

● extend land registration with the aim of covering the whole of England and Wales within 10 years

● review and improve the wider aspects of house transfer. Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney-General, in a written Commons answer yesterday said that the Government hoped to legislate on the first two matters in the next session of Parliament.

Mr Mitchell, and his co-sponsors from other parties, claimed yesterday that they had struck an important blow for the consumer and for competition and wrung several concessions from the Government since their Bill secured a second reading in the Commons last December.

The Bill's supporters, including 25 Conservative rebels, then mustered the 100 votes required to secure its passage, with not one vote to spare.

Since then, in two months of talks with Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor-General, Mr Mitchell and his friends have made the Government run instead of walk. Ministers have agreed to a firm timetable for change; accepted the principle of non-solicitor conveyancing, subject to safeguards; and bowed to the reformers' wishes in appointing the chairman and members of the committee which is to report on how changes in conveyancing practice can best be effected, and in writing its terms of reference.

The chairman will be Professor Harry Street, professor of English Law at the University of Manchester. The Consumers' Association and the National Consumer Council have been asked to nominate members, as have the Law Society and representatives of bankers, building societies, insurers and other professional interests.

Professor Street has been asked to report by September on how to test the competence of non-solicitor conveyancers.

The Government is also appointing a separate inter-departmental committee to review house transfer and find ways of simplifying and speeding it.

Finally, 400 more staff are to be made available to the Land Registry to extend compulsory registration to the whole of England and Wales within 10 years, subject to progress in using computers.

Journalists split on Bill

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Leading journalists are divided over sweeping immunities granted to journalism in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill. Thirty-three media executives have signed a letter to Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Home Office, preferring exclusion from protection provided by the Bill.

But, in another letter to Mr Hurd, the Guild of British Newspaper Editors, acknowledging that the split exists, says that most of its members prefer immunity.

As it stands, the Bill provides safeguards for "journalistic material" against powers for police to search premises for evidence of serious arrestable offences.

Although the Government is

ready to reconsider the immunities, Mr Hurd says that the Bill represents an acceptance by his predecessors in office of what was seen as a legitimate expression of concern voiced widely by the press. The clear message had been that special protection for the media was needed.

The journalists who prefer all references to journalism and journalistic material to be excluded from the Bill have signed a letter to that effect from the British Executive of The International Press.

They say that although the protection is honestly intended, journalism is for the first time given by the Bill a special statutory status, a dangerous innovation.

greatly accelerated under this Government. The rise in imports had not been compensated for by any real meaningful increase in exports. The very reverse of what was happening here was taking place in France where the government was pouring millions of francs into the telecommunications and computer industries.

Most alarmingly of all, the United Kingdom was already faced with a shortage of micro-chips and with the recovery in the US the chip shortage had got worse.

The Government's criminally predictable reaction to the world shortage of micro-chips had been actively to encourage the selling off of Immos. Any such proposition would be vigorously opposed by the Labour Party, particularly as the company most likely to acquire Immos was an American competitor, the giant AT and T.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, said that in the last three to four years the Government had done a great deal to ensure that opportunities were not missed. When the Conservatives came to power government support for information technology was about £50m a year. It had risen to £231m last year and £269m was planned for this year.

The Government regarded this commitment not as open-ended public expenditure but as a form of catalyst.

Security threat to inventor

By Richard Evans

A Yorkshire electronics technician who is claiming a world breakthrough with an invention to prevent computer and video piracy may see it banned by the Ministry of Defence and forfeit a potential fortune because it is "prejudicial to the defence of the realm".

Mr Jim Lamont, aged 33, has been told that he could be sent to prison if he passes on details of his cigarette-box sized device, nicknamed Imprint. The Ministry of Defence will examine the device's specifications before deciding if a patent can be granted, or if it should remain secret.

Mr Lamont, who lives in a small terrace house in Barnsley, claims his invention would stop the pirating of computer and video tapes as well as stopping unauthorized people intercepting data transmitted by telephone and on the air. If his claims prove correct he would make a fortune, because piracy involving computer data and video tapes loses companies millions of pounds a year.

Mr Lamont ran into trouble with his invention when he applied last month for a patent. Under section 22 of the Patents



Mr Lamont: Could lose the chance of a fortune

Act any application containing information which could be prejudicial to the nation's defences has to be referred to the Ministry of Defence.

The ministry could refuse permission for a patent if intelligence services were already using a similar invention and did not want its details made public.

The Patent Office told Mr Lamont his application must remain secret until the ministry

makes a ruling. He said yesterday: "I just could not believe it. I had spent two and a half years designing the system and it was ready to go into production early this year."

The ministry said yesterday that of 40,000 patent applications a year, 800 were referred to them, of which an average of one in seven ended with a restricted patent.

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State aid for new technology still rising

COMMONS

It trade unionists cooperated over the introduction of new technology they should enjoy the benefits, such as shorter hours and early retirement, Mr Don Dixon (Barrow, Lab) said in the Commons.

Initiating a debate on new technology, he called on the Government to make a searching review of developments and present proposals to prevent any further decline of Britain as an industrial nation.

Mr Ian Lloyd (Havant, C), commenting on the poor attendance at the debate, said the House was embarrassed by technology which it found strange, uncomfortable, new, challenging and difficult.

He did not think a searching review was necessary as the Government was already long on diagnosis and short on action. But a new institution was needed to serve Parliament, similar to the US Congress's Office for Technological Assessment.

Science was inadequately served today in the Government because nobody spoke for science as a whole, despite Mr Thatcher being the first Prime Minister who was a scientist.

Mr Douglas Hoyle (Warrington North, Lab), vice-president of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staff, said they were debating against the sombre back-

ground of the decline of Britain's manufacturing industry. Unless something was done urgently that decline could be terminal.

The Government's economic policies were greatly to blame. The idea of free competition and unrestricted imports had had a terrible effect upon Britain's manufacturing base. One of the tests of a real industrial nation today was whether it had a mass production silicon chip industry. It was ridiculous even to contemplate selling off Immos when the Government should be putting more money into it.

Mr Richard Tracey (Surrey, C) said there were considerable consequences for employment prospects with the development of new technology. This had to be looked at carefully by both sides of industry.

Unions had not been completely blameless, and one could understand their concern. But there had been rather graphic examples of almost Luddite behaviour by unions when faced with new technology.

Mr Roger Stett (Wigan, Lab), for the Opposition, said the growth rates of the United States and Japan, the world's principal competitors in information technology, were about double that of the United Kingdom.

For the first time in its industrial history Britain was a net importer of manufactured goods. Its decline as an industrial trading nation had

greatly accelerated under this Government. The rise in imports had not been compensated for by any real meaningful increase in exports. The very reverse of what was happening here was taking place in France where the government was pouring millions of francs into the telecommunications and computer industries.

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Most alarmingly of all, the United Kingdom was already faced with a shortage of micro-chips and with the recovery in the US the chip shortage had got worse.

Immos was now trading profitably. The Government had provided up to £100m in support and the company was now able to look to private sources for further capital resources.

The board of the company was now examining the various approaches made and would come to conclusions in the course of the next few weeks. He had every hope that the money needed would become available.

In 1983 Britain used more micro-chips in manufacturing than Germany, 39 per cent of Europe's total compared with Germany's 26 per cent. Britain now had the fastest growing integrated circuit industry in Europe. It had become a major manufacturer.

Britain had 3,500 engineers working in the space industry and its turnover increased from £35m in 1979 to £200m in 1983. Britain was manufacturing nine satellites, and he hoped it would be the first country to launch a privately-financed satellite in Europe in 1986/87.

The Government had committed a substantial level of financial support to the civil aerospace industry. Since 1979, £130m had been contributed to civil aerospace research and development projects and launch aid had also been approved for several projects.

It was important that all children left school with the ability to operate a computer and the Government had spent substantial funds in this end.

Race bias in rejection of dustman to alter QL promise

Westminster City Council was rightly accused of race discrimination over the appointment of dustmen, a High Court judge decided yesterday.

Mr Justice Woolf refused to quash a non-discrimination notice issued last March by the Commission for Racial Equality under the Race Relations Act.

The Conservative-controlled council argued that it was "monstrously unjust" to name their assistant director of cleansing, Mr Derek Rolfe, in the notice, Mr Rolfe acknowledged that many refuse collectors in the northern part of the City were veraciously prejudiced, and he had fought against it.

He had even discriminated in favour of the black worker at the heart of the issue, Mr Charles Edwards, in offering him a job when his qualifications did not justify it.

But the offer was reluctantly withdrawn in May 1980. Mr Rolfe said there was a danger of industrial action by the dustmen's branch of the National Union of Public Employees.

The judge said "there was a 'clear connexion' between the withdrawal of the offer and racial prejudice."

Sinclair told to alter QL promise

The Sinclair Research company has been told by the Advertising Standards Authority to back down over promises to deliver its new QL Computer within 28 days. It is the second time the company has been told to amend its promises.

The company, whose major shareholder is Sir Clive Sinclair, launched the £399 QL four weeks ago. Orders have arrived at the rate of 500 a day, and, despite advertisement claims that delivery would be within 28 days, the company does not expect to make first deliveries until the end of this month.

Some customers who have sent their cheques may not get their computer until the end of May.

Home computer enthusiasts thwarted by the delay are especially angry because it is a repeat of Sinclair's performance in 1982 when the Advertising Standards Authority asked it to amend its advertisement when deliveries of the ZX Spectrum were held up.

A Sinclair spokesman said all plans for future advertisements had been suspended.

Modern Chinese art fetches record prices

By Huon Mallatien

The market in modern Chinese paintings is rather esoteric and largely confined to collectors in Hongkong. It does not seem to have suffered from the political uncertainties of the time, since a new level for the field was established at a sale in Hongkong yesterday.

Sotheby's had estimated that an album of 16 illustrations to Tang poems dated 1948 by Fu Baoshi would make about HK\$1,200,000 (£107,143). They sold to a local collector at HK\$1,760,000 (£157,142). The sale made a total of HK\$5,250,630 (£468,806) with 16 per cent bought in.

The London, Sotheby's were offering good Victorian furniture, which is a growing

market. The London dealers, After Fredericks, paid £33,000 for a remarkable expanding circular dining table made by Johnstone, Jope of Bond Street in the 1830s. It had carried a wide-ranging estimate of between £30,000 and £50,000.

An ivory inlaid and ebony veneered fireplace surround, which was made for Alfred Morrison's Fonthill House in Wiltshire by Owen Jones in the late 1860s, at £14,850 (estimate £4,000 to £6,000). The sale produced £261,954 with just under 5 per cent bought in.

A sale of English paintings at Christie's made £177,682

Suit of armour saved

By Sandra Hempel

A sixteenth century suit of armour has almost certainly been saved for the nation, just one day before an export ban was to be lifted.

Proceeds

£26m robbery guard who talked 'will always be a fugitive from revenge'

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Anthony Black, a Brinks-Mat security guard who provided information which led to Britain's largest recorded robbery of £26m, set in motion a train of events which may leave him a fugitive from criminal revenge for life, he was told by a judge yesterday.

Black gave armed robbers details of his firm's high security warehouse near Heathrow airport, provided a key for copying, ensured that the copy worked in the warehouse lock and on the day of the raid signalled the gang from the warehouse that the raid could go ahead.

The Central Criminal Court was told that Black, aged 31, was unable to withstand police questioning soon after the robbery on November 26. With the words: "where do I begin?", Black started to confess his role and eventually agreed to give evidence against the alleged raiders.

In a hearing lasting less than an hour Black admitted his part in the robbery and the court was told that he had provided information leading to the arrest of three others who were facing criminal proceedings.

Sentencing Black to six years' imprisonment the Common Sergeant, Mr David Tudor Price, told him that the sentence had been reduced because "you and your family will forever be fugitives from those whom you so stupidly and wickedly helped".

A slim man with a black moustache, he sat flanked by prison officers as Mr Timothy Cassel outlined the case for the Crown. He said that the robbery

had been "highly organized, ruthless and enormously lucrative".

On November 25 the Brinks-Mat warehouse, on an industrial estate near the airport, was stocked with consignments of gold, platinum, diamonds and travellers' cheques, destined for customers throughout the world. The items were worth a total of £26,369,778.

On November 26, a Saturday, the security firm was due to move three tons of the gold, worth nearly £2m, collected the day before from Johnson Matthey, bullion dealers, to Gatwick airport. The warehouse was not normally manned at weekends but a crew was selected including Black, who was told of the job on the Friday afternoon.

Mr Cassel said that the warehouse was divided, with a rest room on the first floor and the vault, with a combination lock, on the ground floor. Half of the combination was known to the supervisor of each crew and the other half to a "key man" who had access to all the warehouse doors and responsibility for the alarm system.

On the day of the robbery Black was to man the radio link in the warehouse connected to the van carrying the gold. At 6.30 a.m. the warehouse was opened by Mr Michael Scouse, the key man, who let in the crew. Black was late and arrived at 6.40 a.m.

Black was let in. The rest of the crew were in the rest room. Black went to the lavatory downstairs and then opened the inner of two doors. He waved

through the glass outer door and the robbers struck.

The three raiders, all armed, forced all the security men to the floor, hooded them, handcuffed them and tied their feet with tape. They asked for Mr Scouse and pulled him from the room. He was told to breathe in and he could feel his trousers and belt being cut with a knife.

Petrol was poured on him and he was told that he would be set alight and shot through the head if he did not do what he was told. The robbers, Mr Cassel said, told him that they had been planning the robbery for a year and had been watching the warehouse for nine months. The told him to go through his routine and forced him to tell them where his keys were.

The crew leader, Mr Robin Risley, was also threatened with petrol and the two men were forced to open the vault and turn off the alarm system.

He was threatened with torture and mutilation if he did not open safes in the vault but he could not remember the combinations. The gang left him, opened the shutters doors to the warehouse and loaded a van before disappearing.

Commander Frank Cater, head of Scotland Yard's Flying Squad, told the court that he would prefer Black for his own safety to remain in police custody rather than go to prison. In prison he would come in contact with men who might be extremely dangerous and influence his evidence.



Musical youth: Alberto Portingheis, the Argentine pianist, took his wife Marina and daughter Susanna, aged five months, to hear him play Schubert's Trout quintet with members of the London Symphony Orchestra in the Barbican foyer yesterday. On more formal occasions Susanna is left with a babysitter backstage. (Photograph: John Manning).

Bidding to be lord of the manor

By Patricia Clough

Instant membership of the British feudal system can be had for the price of a family car when 49 Lordships of Manor are auctioned off at the Merchant Taylors' Hall in Threadneedle Street on March 13.

Upwards of £6,000 could procure the right to style oneself Lord of a certain manor and possess beautifully inscribed old deeds and covenants to prove it. Titles for which the deeds are missing are likely to go for half as much.

The sale is the biggest of its kind to date and will be held jointly by Strutt and Parker, auctioneers, and Manorial Research, a London firm specializing in the sale of manorial titles for which, they say, there is a steady demand.

A Lordship of a Manor still brings vestigial privileges, such as mineral rights, which can be quite lucrative if there are gravel or coal deposits in the area. In some cases it brings the right to hold markets or exact money for the use of wayside land.

The biggest perk, the right to raise rents on land and houses in the area, disappeared some 60 years ago. On the other hand one no longer need worry about raising troops in time of war. The "droit de seigneur", the right to appropriate village maidens before their wedding, never was a legal right, Mr Robert Smith, head of Manorial Research, says, not that it stopped one's predecessors exercising it.

Among the titles for sale is the Lordship of Bovey Tracey Manor, in Devon founded in 1272 by the descendants of Sir William de Tracey, one of the knights who murdered St Thomas Becket.

The future Lord of Letheringham Manor, in Suffolk, will have William the Conqueror among his predecessors, while the future Lord of Cratfield Manor, also in Suffolk, will acquire the oldest document, in the sale dated 1272, knowing it previously belonged to Bloody Mary.

Mr Cotton, a former BBC 1 controller and head of light entertainment, is reputed to be more interested in conventional popular programming than Mr Singer.

A tempting option would be to replace the traditional early evening current affairs programme, *Sixty Minutes*, with light entertainment.

Retell or wretch, page 8

Boy, 15, on two rape charges

A boy, aged 15, appeared at Hammersmith juvenile court, London yesterday, accused of raping two women in Belgrave and Fimbo, on January 24 and February 10.

The boy, from Stockwell, south-west London, was remanded in custody.



Sport on canvas: Mr Kevin Whitney (left), official artist to the British Olympic Association, for the Los Angeles Games, with Neil Adams, favourite for the judo gold medal, and his portrait. (Photograph: Kelham Pryke).

Medals traded for a warm flat

By Alan Hamilton

The memories of her late husband's heroism in saving the Cambridgeshire town of Soham from devastation by bombs are no longer enough to sustain Mrs Violet Gimbert.

Mrs Gimbert, aged 81, is to auction his George Cross at Sotheby's next month so she can move from her cold three-bedroom house in the town of March to a comfortable, centrally-heated flat. Mrs Gimbert lives on social security and there have been no offers for the £18,000 house she is trying to sell.

Last October Sotheby's sold a George Cross for £16,000, a salaried record for the medal.

Benjamin Gimbert, then aged 41, was an engine driver on the LNER. Soon after midnight on June 3, 1944, he and his fireman James Nightall, aged 22, were driving a train of 31 wagons of explosive munitions through the dark flat fenlands when, passing through Soham, they noticed the first wagon was on fire.

Realizing the risk of an immense explosion should the whole train catch alight, Gimbert stopped his engine and Nightall uncoupled the wagon, engulfed in flames from the rest of the train. Gimbert then began to tow it away from the adjacent station, but it was too late.

The wagon of bombs detonated, killing the fireman, demolishing the signal box and

station, burying the station-master and his family, fatally injuring the signalman, and damaging several houses. Gimbert survived serious injuries.

The dead fireman was also awarded the George Cross, the highest honour for civilian gallantry. In his citation King George VI said: "There is no doubt that if the whole train had been involved, as it would have been but for the gallant action of the men concerned, there would have been serious loss of life and property."

Benjamin Gimbert was awarded bravery medals by the railway company, and the *Daily Herald* newspaper, which then awarded an annual order of industrial heroism.

Mrs Gimbert said yesterday: "I have talked it over for months and months and have now decided to sell the medals because they are kept in a bank. My three-bedroom house has no central heating and is much too big for me. I want to buy a new, warm flat for £17,750 but I can't see my way clear. After the accident my husband never earned good money."

But the courage of driver Gimbert will not be forgotten - British Rail has named a locomotive after him.

Royal gatecrasher held for medical reports

A man who tried to gatecrash a function attended by the Prince of Wales was yesterday remanded in custody for medical reports after refusing to be bound over in the sum of £500 to keep the peace for two years.

Christopher James Yeo, aged 30 and unemployed, of Aberdeenshire Road, Croydon, south London, had been removed shouting from the dock at Bow Street Magistrates' court by three police officers. He had complained loudly throughout the 15-minute hearing after being accused of breach of the peace.

Sergeant Peter Richardson, who was on duty outside the Royal Society of Arts on Thursday, waiting for the Prince to arrive, was called into the building by an official.

He said that he was told that Yeo did not have an invitation but had refused to leave the building. "The official asked him a second time to leave and

took hold of him by the left arm. Yeo pulled his arm away violently. I took hold of him, then he swung out and struck me on the side of the face", Sergeant Richardson added.

There was a violent struggle and he was arrested for causing a breach of the peace.

Throughout the evidence Yeo shouted objections and demanded to see the officer's notebook. He accused the Sergeant of lying and demanded paper and a pen to write his own notes. Yeo refused to answer questions from Mr Ronald Bartle, the magistrate.

He later refused to sign the police bail accepting the binding over order, and was remanded to reappear before the magistrate yesterday afternoon.

He was then remanded in custody until next Thursday for medical reports on a charge of causing criminal damage estimated at £50 to a police van.

Home treatment hope for PC Olds

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Police Constable Philip Olds, who was paralysed after being shot by armed robbers two and a half years ago, is to be given new high-technology treatment to help him to walk again.

PC Olds, aged 31, will receive the treatment, involving electrical stimulation of his leg muscles, from a small research unit in Port Talbot, South Wales, which has been awarded a £50,000 government grant.

PC Olds, who works for the Metropolitan Police as a clerical officer, has undergone similar treatment from a university laboratory in Dayton, Ohio. The equipment in Port Talbot has the unique advantage, however, of being suitable for home use.

Dr Hugh Grenfell, a Port Talbot engineer who developed the equipment, and who will treat PC Olds, said yesterday: "This young man has already visited us and we think we can help him. The muscles of his legs have started to atrophy since he last received treatment in the United States and the first task is to build them up again. We will exercise his legs and when and if he is strong enough we will go a stage further and try him with walking equipment."

The equipment consists of a

power unit strapped to the patient's waist and linked to the limbs, which are then motivated by electrical impulses.

A patient whose legs are paralysed is thus enabled to walk with the aid of a supporting frame. PC Olds's ability to walk will depend on a combination of the strength of his leg muscles and his determination and stamina, Dr Grenfell said.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Minister for Information Technology, announced the award of a £50,000 research grant to Dr Grenfell's company, Enablement Technology, in the House of Commons yesterday.

The minister told MPs: "I think the House will know of the moving story of PC Olds, and the help he was getting from an American professor. I am pleased to tell you that PC Olds will from next week be receiving treatment nearer home." He said the small Welsh company had had no previous funding, and the equipment was originally developed in a garage.

PC Olds is on a training course, learning to be an instructor of police cadets, the Metropolitan Police said yesterday.

Nurse's father can fight fine

A High Court judge yesterday granted the father of Helen Smith leave to challenge a £50 fine for contempt, imposed at the inquest in 1982 into the nurse's death at an illegal drinks party in Saudi Arabia.

Mr Stephen Sedley, QC,

counsel for Mr Ronald Smith, of Guiseley, Leeds told Mr Justice Mann that the coroner for West Yorkshire, Mr Phillip Gill, "had no power to impose the fine in the first place, and no one had the power to collect it".

Mr Justice Mann said the fine was "unlawful and void".

Mr Jameson, aged 54, who was until last month editor of the *News of the World*, seeks damages against the BBC and Mr Aubrey Singer, then managing director of BBC Radio.

The defendants deny libel and say the sketch, titled "Man of the Week", was fair comment and a matter of public interest.

He rejected a suggestion by Mr John Wilmers, QC, for the BBC, that a sketch about him

was a light-hearted lampoon. "That lampoon is not light-hearted; it is ill-informed, unfair and offensive", he said.

Mr Jameson described the sketch as a "savage and monstrous attack on the character of the *News of the World* editor, when editor of the *Daily Express*, he ran a world exclusive on Joyce McKinney, the girl in the "manicured Mormon" case, after she jumped bail in England and had been tracked down in the United States.

The hearing continues on Monday.

BBC silent on reports of reshuffle

By David Hewson Arts Correspondent

The BBC refused to comment yesterday on reports that a senior management reshuffle is planned because of the corporation's failure to match the commercial network's ratings.

Mr Aubrey Singer, whose replacement as managing director of BBC Television by Mr Bill Cotton, head of its satellite broadcasting venture, was reported in *The Guardian*, also refused to comment.

Mr Singer's departure is common to every BBC rumour and it is expected to be agreed by the board of governors next Thursday.

Corporation sources speculated that Mr Alan Hart, controller of BBC 1, and Mr Brian Wenham, the controller of programmes, might also be moved.

The managerial changes are likely to be of prime importance. The BBC's campaign for a licence fee of more than £60, compared with the present £46 for a colour set, will be launched shortly.

One key belief is that the Government will not agree to that increase if BBC 1 and BBC 2 can regularly attract only 45 per cent of the viewing audience.

Mr Cotton, a former BBC 1 controller and head of light entertainment, is reputed to be more interested in conventional popular programming than Mr Singer.

A tempting option would be to replace the traditional early evening current affairs programme, *Sixty Minutes*, with light entertainment.

Retell or wretch, page 8

Plea to end 'horror and squalor' at Greenham

People living near the Greenham Common cruise missile base yesterday appealed to the Prime Minister to end the "horror and squalor" caused by peace women camping outside the Berkshire airfield.

A letter and list of complaints were handed in to 10 Downing Street by the leader of the "Greenham Common Women Out" campaign, Mrs Sheila Shadden.

She wrote: "I am writing to you to beg you to bring your influence and position to bear on your Minister of Transport to clear the main gate of the base, which is the nucleus of the settlement."

"The apparent indifference of the Government to the plight of those suffering from this intolerable invasion by these women has been endured for the past two years."

"Newbury, and in particular the residents of Greenham, have suffered long enough. Only those who have to endure this horror and squalor can know what it is really like."

Mrs Shadden, who went to London expecting opposition from peace campaigners, was shadowed by her bodyguard for the day, Mr Philip Gore, a taxi-driver from Newbury.

Before handing in the letter she claimed that peace women used local gardens as latrines and were verbally and physically abusive. "Residents are afraid to take any action against the peace campaigners for fear of retaliation and reprisal."

She refused to work at the other function and was sent a letter telling her that she would not be required again.

Dispute over royal lunch cost waitress her job

A waitress who wanted to serve lunch to the Queen came to an industrial tribunal yesterday that she had been unfairly dismissed by Glasgow City Council.

Mrs Sandra McQuarrie, who had worked on a casual basis for the council for five years, was one of 40 waitresses invited to serve at the City Chambers when the Queen visited the city.

But three days before the event she found out that only 10 waitresses were required for the Queen's private function. The other 30 were needed for a separate event.

She refused to work at the other function and was sent a letter telling her that she would not be required again.

Parents of children in care 'need more rights'

By Nicholas Timmins Social Services Correspondent

A Conservative MP is to seek leave to introduce a Bill giving parents stronger legal rights to challenge decisions to take their children into care or to deny them access.

The move follows new government guidance on giving parents access to children in care which Mr Jerry Hayes, Conservative MP for Harlow, wants to be given the force of law.

Mr Hayes said that many people felt social workers had too much power, and that it was "daily being used in a dictatorial fashion against the interests of parents and children".

He said that in 26 per cent of cases where parents voluntarily put their children in care in 1975, local authorities had later assumed parental control. But by 1981 that figure had risen to 43 per cent.

"This is an alarming development, particularly as there is a large amount of evidence that pressure is being placed upon parents and that they have not been told of their rights."

Local authority social services committees could assume parental rights by passing a resolution on a social workers report. Mr Hayes said. The parents had no right to be told of the resolution, to be present to argue against it or to challenge the social worker's report, and the committee could determine access without consulting the parents.

The committees, he said, effectively "rubber stamp" social workers' decisions, and while an appeal to the courts was then possible, "the dice are well and truly loaded" by that stage.

Although the public saw parents whose children were taken into care because of housing problems, a nervous breakdown or divorce. They still wanted reasonable access, Mr Hughes said.

His attempt is to be supported by a lobby of Parliament on Tuesday by Parents Aid, a group for parents separated from their children.

He is seeking leave to introduce the Bill under the 10-minute rule, which gives it little chance of becoming law at this stage in a fairly new Parliament. But the move will test whether there is significant parliamentary support for such a change.

Auction for Gracie Fields home

The seaside home of the late Dame Gracie Fields at Telscombe Cliffs, East Sussex, which has a Chinese room, bar and white grand piano, is to be sold at auction (Our Property Correspondent writes).

The Haven, which was her English home, has remained untouched since she furnished it. The sale comes after the death of her widower, Boris, last year.

Mr Reg Stone, of auctioneers Habens, Banner and Dell, who expect it to raise at least £150,000, said: "It has an air of fantasy. It reflects her character and wide range of tastes." The furniture will be auctioned separately.

The house has five reception rooms and five bedrooms.

Airman on Nato secrets trial

An airman accused of passing secrets under the Official Secrets Act will be tried at the Central Criminal Court on July 9, a spokesman for the Director of Public Prosecutions said yesterday.

Paul John Davies, aged 21, who was based in RAF Episkopi, Cyprus, is charged with passing a confidential Nato signal to Eva Marie Gazi Jaafar between September 1 and 27 last year.

Navy's farewell

The Royal Navy ended its 400-year-old connexion with Chatham, Kent, yesterday, when the last 40 sailors led by two drummers, marched out of its former HMS Pembroke.

Hell's Angels trial told of another killing

A murder trial jury was told yesterday that a gang of Hell's Angels called the Road Rats, who allegedly ordered another gang to kill a young couple, were responsible for the murder of another man in London.

Ian Turner, said to be an intended victim, told the court that one of the accused had boasted he had carried out the London murder. But under cross-examination he said that the murder at Chelsea Bridge was the work of the Road Rats.

Mr Turner was giving evidence on the fourth day of the trial at Northampton Crown Court.

Michael Bardell, aged 30, and Stephen Parkinson, aged 21, both of Northampton, deny murdering David Cox and his girl friend, Debbie Fallon and

conspiring to murder Mr Turner.

The prosecution alleges that Mr Cox and Miss Fallon were murdered to impress the Road Rats.

The court was told that Mr Bardell started a gang of Hell's Angels in Northampton, called Lucifer's Outlaws, but Mr Turner said yesterday "they were never in the same league as the Road Rats".

Questioned by Mr Igor Judge, QC, defending Parkinson, over the supposed London murder, Mr Turner said Mr Bardell had been at Chelsea Bridge at the time. Mr Judge asked: "Was the killing at Chelsea Bridge a Rats killing?" Mr Turner replied: "Yes".

The trial continues on Monday.

Welsh forsake rugby for free Paris trip

From Tim Jones Cardiff

Hundreds of Welsh rugby fans have exchanged their tickets for today's home international against France in return for a weekend for two in Paris.

Mr John Hall, a travel agent in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, is offering the free holidays to secure tickets for visiting French supporters.

He has been asking for two stand or six field tickets for every person who goes to Paris, and says almost a thousand people have taken up the offer.

He said: "As well as a lot of married couples, entire clubs are taking up the offer to play a match or two while they are in France."

Mr Brian Kempson, assistant secretary of the Welsh Rugby Union, said: "There's nothing illegal about the scheme, and there is very little we can do about it."

Match preview, page 29

Glenn faces depressing Iowa campaign as Mondale takes big lead

From Nicholas Ashford, Des Moines



Given Senator John Glenn's latest ratings in the polls, the fact that his Iowa campaign offices are situated in a Red Cross building here seems appropriately prophetic. His seven Democratic rivals and local political pundits are already writing him off as a stretch case.

This may be unfair and premature, but the latest Gallup Poll, which shows him trailing front runner Mr Walter Mondale by 35 points and level pegging with the Rev Jesse Jackson, make depressing reading for the former astronaut as he prepares for the first - and, for him, perhaps most important - test of his presidential campaign.

On Monday some 100,000 Iowa Democrats will vote in the state's precinct caucuses. This exercise in grass roots democracy is essentially a parochial affair, but the caucuses have taken on immense political significance because they are the first judgment by voters in a presidential election year.

Although Iowa sends only 58 delegates to the Democratic National Convention, whoever wins on Monday night will receive enormous media attention which will help to propel him through the series of key primaries which get underway in New Hampshire in just over a week.

No one in Iowa doubts that Mr Mondale will emerge as an easy winner. Even his rivals admit this. He has by far the best organization and also has the advantage, having been born just across the border in Minnesota, of being considered a "local boy". So well is he known that he is often referred to as "the third senator from Iowa".

Mr Mondale's campaign staff say they will be happy if he wins 40 per cent of the vote and a 29 point margin over his nearest rival. His opponents, however, feel he is losing support among liberals to Mr Gary Hart, Mr Alan Cranston and Senator George McGovern.

If he fares less well than is being predicted his hitherto unstoppable campaign could start to flag over the next few critical weeks.

The other crucial question to be decided on Monday is whether Mr Glenn can stay in second place - and if not, who will overtake him.

There is an air of defeatism at his campaign office. Despite pouring hundreds of thousands of dollars into Iowa, his staff

admit he can only hope to come second and say they will be happy if he is less than 15 points behind Mr Mondale.

Not only has Glenn been plagued by organizational problems, but his middle of the road views have failed to inspire party activists who will be turning out to vote on Monday. His performance in last week's debate organized by the *Des Moines Register* was considered the worst of all eight participants.

The main challenge to Mr Glenn comes from Mr Cranston and Mr Hart. Mr Cranston has the best organization after Mr Mondale.

However, he is seen as a one issue candidate (the nuclear freeze) and his age at 70 is against him. His poll ratings actually fell after his first television commercial was screened.

After being ignored for months, Mr Hart's campaign has finally started to take off. Although this has probably happened to late for him to gain second place, a third position would greatly enhance his chances for a strong showing in New Hampshire.

Senator Glenn's staff are particularly concerned about the challenge now being posed by Mr McGovern, whose success in portraying himself as the liberal conscience of the Democratic Party in last week's debate is winning him both plaudits and pledges of support.

Mr McGovern likes to point out that his surprise capture of the Democratic nomination in 1972 began in Iowa when, despite being a complete outsider, he won 22 per cent of the vote. The most unpredictable element in the race is Reubin Askew whose anti-abortion stand is attracting support from Iowa's influential Right-to-Life movement.

"He's doing better," one of his staff confided. When asked what "better" meant, the reply came "Any one who has only 1 per cent in the poll can only get better."

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Juggernaut jam: Lorries blocking the road between Chamonix and the Mont Blanc tunnel.

Wave of strikes paralyses France

From Diana Geddes Paris

The industrial and social unrest which slumbers beneath the surface of French life, has again erupted in a largely unconnected, but dramatic series of strikes and demonstrations, making life decidedly uncomfortable for the beleaguered Government.

The most spectacular event yesterday was the huge blockade of motorways and railway lines, mainly in the Rhone-Alps area, by thousands of lorry drivers protesting at a succession of manmade and natural disruptions to traffic trying to cross the Alps into Italy - the latest of which was a strike by French and Italian customs officials.

That was called off early yesterday, but the drivers decided to continue their action, which has already caused serious disruption to villages and winter sports resorts in the area, as well as massive traffic jams, blocking thousands of tourists at the start of the mid-term school holidays.

Villages in the Chamonix Valley are reported to be without heat because supplies of domestic fuel have been unable to reach them, while the ski resorts of Chamonix, Saint-Gervais and Megève are said to be running out of fresh vegetables. Essential supplies have been flown in by helicopter.

Some towns have had to requisition schools to provide shelter for the hundreds of trapped holidaymakers failing to find rooms in the overflowing hotels.

The Government has described the situation as unacceptable, but has not come up with an answer.

Miners have announced plans to hold their first national strike for 21 years, after talks collapsed with the Government on Thursday on its proposals for the future of the industry. A "renewable" 48-hour strike has been called for next Monday and Tuesday.

On Thursday, thousands of workers in the public sector took to the streets throughout the country to protest about alleged cuts in real wages. Stoppages between one and 24 hours caused delays in several flights, disrupted postal and meteorological services and led to the curtains being raised up to an hour late in several theatres.

Swapo chief says war in Namibia will go on

By Henry Stanhope Diplomatic Correspondent

The war in Namibia would go on despite this week's agreement on the disengagement of forces in southern Angola, the leader of the South-West Africa People's Organization said yesterday. But Swapo was ready to negotiate a ceasefire when South Africa gave the word.

Mr Sam Nujoma was speaking at Westminster after a 30-minute meeting with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, in which he appealed with apparent success, for British support for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 435, which charts a path towards Namibian independence.

He wanted Britain to impose economic sanctions on South Africa but acknowledged that his chances of securing sanctions from Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Government were remote.

He was less polite about President Reagan, whom he accused of protecting the white minority regime in South Africa against Swapo's interests, and described the Western five-power Contact Group as "finished failed".

That was why France had suspended its activities in the group, he said, and why he was appealing to its other members, Britain, Canada, West Germany and the United States, to use their influence within the United Nations and, where appropriate, the Security Council.

Mr Nujoma, who returns to Africa on Monday after a European tour, said he would not go so far as to describe the disengagement agreement between South Africa and Angola as irrelevant, but only time would tell how useful it was. At present it affected only Angola and had nothing to do with Namibia.

His crowded press conference at the Commons was chaired by Mr Brian Sedgmore, the Labour MP, and attended by the Conservative MP Mr Nicholas Winterdon, a member of the British Namibia All-Party Group, who took part in one or two sharp exchanges. Mr Winterdon, who wanted to know when Mr Nujoma was last in Namibia and what contact he had had with other opinions in the country, was roundly told it was none of his business.

Last night the Foreign Office issued a statement welcoming the talks on disengagement between Angola, South Africa and the United States.



Mr Nujoma: Western Contact Group "finished"

Angola-South Africa deal

Pretoria pledges total pull-out

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa has committed itself to a specific (though still undisclosed) date for the withdrawal of all its forces from southern Angola, and Luanda has promised to ensure that neither Cuban troops, nor Swapo guerrillas will be allowed to move into the vacated areas.

This is the essence of the agreement reached in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, at Thursday's trilateral meeting between South Africa, Angola and the United States, according to Mr P. W. Botha, the Foreign Minister, who led Pretoria's delegation.

The purpose of the joint Angola-South Africa commission, also set up in Lusaka, will be to monitor the completion of the South African withdrawal, which began on January 31, and the observance by Angola of its side of the bargain.

According to informed sources, there may still be about 1,000 South African troops inside Angola. Fighting across the Namibia-Angola border has steadily increased since Swapo established bases in Angola in the mid-1970s, and South Africa has been in virtually permanent occupation of parts of southern Angola since 1981.

The mechanics of the commission's operation are still not entirely clear. It will, according to Mr Botha, have "a couple of hundred" members, divided equally into Angolans and South Africans. Most will be military personnel, but there could be some civilians.

American participation is provided for if Pretoria and Luanda both wish it. It is understood that, if American personnel do take part, they will be small in number - probably no more than six to 12 people.

Their task could be to provide technological expertise in the policing of demilitarized zones and/or to act as referees in the event of dispute.

Neither South African nor American sources here seem especially perturbed by a report carried by Angop, the Angolan state-run news agency, quoting an unidentified official as saying that American observers would be unacceptable because they would not be neutral. This statement is not thought to have been authorized at the highest level.

How the commission will perform its monitoring work over an area larger than some of the smaller European countries remains to be seen.

Despite the question marks still hanging over the "disengagement process" - to use the latest diplomatic phrase - even sceptics here believe that a

'Wilson' of the ETA turns to the ballot box

From Richard Wigg Victoria

"Wilson", the Basque who planned the assassination of Admiral Carrero Blanco, Franco's Prime Minister, 10 years ago, is now a left-wing parliamentary candidate in this month's general elections in the Basque country.

With a *nom de guerre* copied from the then British Labour Prime Minister still remaining from his ETA days Señor Iñaki Pérez Beotegui is asking the electors of Alava province to vote on February 26 for a new political group, Angolan (Community Work in Basque). This sounds like a cross between the more radical community politics of the Liberal Party in Britain and West Germany's "Greens".

Few professional politicians give Angolan much chance of getting even one MP out of the 75 in the Basque Parliament, but Wilson campaigns hard in between sprints at his regular job as a commercial traveller, and the ultimate goal is still apparently a Trotskyist Basque socialist republic.

Now aged 35, Wilson strongly condemns ETA's strategy of violence, speaking of an organization much changed from his time, and much less popular than when the "Tikieta", the three-man group who actually carried out his plan and blew up Admiral Blanco while still in his official car in a Madrid street on December 20, 1973.

But in an interview Wilson was quite unrepentant about the killing of the man selected to continue the Franco regime after the dictator's death.

"A pity it was not done earlier - and with the little one as well," said Wilson, a humourless man of few words and always looking sombre, was referring to Franco's small stature.

Criticizing today's ETA violence as "not responding to the necessities of the Basque people", he said: "Taking the life of a Civil Guard is not going to liberate the Basque homeland. I just do not see the point of such killings."

Wilson said he had joined ETA direct from England in the 1960s after serving a six-month jail sentence for being caught trying to set fire to the Spanish Embassy in London.



'Wilson': Named himself after British leader

Jostling in the Politburo

Chernenko and the young pretenders

From Richard Owen, Moscow

"Gerontocracy rules", murmured a colleague this week as a small group of us stood a few feet from Mr Konstantin Chernenko in the Kremlin, watching him receive the world's leaders.

At 72, Mr Chernenko is the baby of the Politburo's older generation. He stood alongside Mr Vasily Kuznetsov, once again acting President and now a venerable 83; Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, fit for his age at 78 and still Prime Minister; and Mr Adrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, an indestructible 74.

On Red Square, Mr Chernenko walked stiffly, lost his place in his speech several times, and kept mopping his face with his handkerchief. In St George's Hall afterwards, he seemed better but still stiff and short of breath, a symptom of emphysema, which involves fibrosis of the lungs.

The same question mark therefore hangs over him as hung over Mr Andropov. Mr Brezhnev and Mr Krushchev came to power in their fifties. Mr Andropov and Mr Chernenko fought their Shakespearean battle of rivalry and death as old men.

Western leaders this week found Mr Chernenko authoritative, strong-willed, practical, even humorous. He was cordial and free of polemics. But with both sides eager for a fresh start in East-West relations, polite phrases are to be expected.

Many Russians regard him as a transitional leader, and they include a surprising number of officials. The -kgh is reported to be less than happy with the rise of a man who did his best to frustrate Mr Andropov's police-backed drive against incompetence in the party (which often meant corruption). "The party has had its revenge on the KGB and the military for installing Mr Andropov in a coup", one highly-placed source observed.

Lifelong friends of the Chernenko include fellow Brezhnev associates sacked or jailed under Andropov, including the disgraced Interior Minister, Mr Nikolai Shcholkov, who, thanks to Mr Chernenko's protection, was never put on trial.

During Mr Chernenko's election, and afterwards when the world came to shake his hand in the Kremlin, previously relaxed and routine security measures became palpably more tense. A ring of steel surrounded Moscow, sealing the city off with police and troops.

"Perhaps Marshal Ustinov is thinking of another coup", one Kremlin observer said in semi-jest, referring to the theory that the Defence Minister (who backed Mr Andropov's bid for power) would have preferred to see a younger man such as Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, aged 52, take the Soviet Union out of the age of the abacus and into the world of the microcomputer at long last.

Signs of renewed factional

fighting in the Politburo emerged this week with the revelation that Mr Gorbachov had called for unity at the Plenum which elected Mr Chernenko. The press had only mentioned speeches by Mr Chernenko and Mr Tikhonov (who nominated him), but the official report of the Plenum, issued on Thursday contained Mr Gorbachov's remarks.

"The old guard would have done better to publish his speech on unity instead of trying to suppress it", one observer said. "Now everyone knows disunity is just below the surface".

Mr Chernenko suffers by comparison with the urbane and energetic Mr Gorbachov, a full 20 years his junior. Mr Chernenko underwent a whirlwind introduction to foreign affairs at the Andropov funeral, meeting leaders from Mrs Margaret Thatcher ("Iron Lady meets man of straw" was one Western headline) to President Castro and Mr Yasser Arafat. But he did not dazzle the world as Mr Andropov did in 1982.

When Mr Gromyko eulogized the late leader's grasp of world affairs and "remarkable mental abilities" on Red Square, the point was not lost on those who see Mr Chernenko as the supreme apparatchik.

Mr Chernenko has a reputation as the consumer's champion, and has emphasized the need for defence spending to go hand in hand with economic growth. But in his acceptance speech, and again on Red Square, he spoke of strengthening Soviet defences, a nod in the direction of the generals' appetite for military spending.

If conservatism, ideological rigidity and inflexible foreign policy are to be the watchwords of the Chernenko regime - although it is too early to make categorical judgment - there is little chance that the Soviet system will do much more than mark time for a year or two. Although Mr Chernenko praised Mr Andropov's economic experiments on Monday at the Central Committee, he also said they would be reassessed, and young Soviet technocrats fear this means the return of stifling bureaucracy rather than the breeze of change they began to feel under Mr Andropov.

Unlike Mr Andropov, Mr Chernenko does not lean towards Hungarian-style reforms, and Mr Janos Kadar, the Hungarian leader, was said by associates to be not only upset at the loss of a lifelong friend, but also distressed by the loss of an ideological ally in the Kremlin.

Liberal hopes in Russia and Eastern Europe are pinned on Mr Gorbachov, who controls agriculture, party personnel and light industry. He may, however, have to hold himself in check until Mr Chernenko falters through illness or old age.

Britons sent to jail for casino fraud

From Our Own Correspondent Johannesburg

Seven Britons and one American were sentenced yesterday to prison terms in the Supreme Court of Bophuthatswana for their part in a fraud at a casino in Sun City gambling and entertainment complex.

They had pleaded guilty to stealing a total of rands 133,758 (£76,000) last November and December while employed as croupiers and "pit-bosses" (inspectors).

Their prison terms range from four to six years and their fines from rands 6,000 to 10,000 with the alternative of another three years in prison.

Four women - wives and girlfriends of the male accused - were also arrested and charged, but the charges were later withdrawn.

A peculiarity of the trial was that normal consular access to the accused was not possible as neither Britain nor the United States recognizes Bophuthatswana. Before their trial the eight male accused smuggled out a letter to *The Times*.

Apart from detailing objections to the "inedible" food, lack of beds, and to being crammed into cells with "primitive, semi-naked locals", they also alleged that two of the women had been "physically molested" and one of the male accused "almost raped by five men".

The eight convicted men are: James Anthony, aged 34, Michael Rothwell, aged 36, Stephen Evans, aged 27, Christopher Giddings, aged 23, Michael Reeves, aged 28, Thomas Charnock, aged 32, Michael Bowman, aged 32, and the American David Saunders, aged 28.

Portugal powerless over Cahora dam sabotage

From Marinha de Cal, Lisbon

The Cahora Bassa hydroelectric project in Mozambique will fail unless the power lines to South Africa are secured, a senior Portuguese official warned.

Senhor Antonio D'Almeida, the Secretary of State for the Treasury, led his country's delegation at the Lisbon talks, which included South Africa and Mozambique, on security, tariffs and financial responsibility for the frequently sabotaged project.

Proposals were drawn up here and will be submitted to the three governments. A

further meeting has been set. Concerning tariffs, which Portugal wants raised, he said South Africa had been receiving only 7 to 8 per cent of the electricity it contracted. It is paying only a third of the cost of power in South Africa because of a penalty clause in the contract.

Anti-government rebels of the Renamo Movement, reputedly backed by Pretoria, knocked out the transmission lines for six months in 1981 and have kept them out of action for the past five months.

Which page will you turn to first in tomorrow's Sunday Times?

What's wrong with the BBC?

Whilst the BBC seeks a doubling of its £46 licence fee, controversy mounts over the quality of its programmes and its share of the national audience slumps to 43%, we ask: does the BBC deserve a rise?

99 of the Best.

This week The Sunday Times completes its serialisation of Anthony Burgess' list of 99 favourite novels with his comments on many of them. It covers novels from 1960 and includes authors ranging from Len Deighton to Vladimir Nabokov, Kingsley Amis to Paul Scott.

Screen.

Author William Boyd reviews situation comedies on BBC and ITV, including "Duty Free."

Doctor Who: where can the BBC and Ian Levine find the missing episodes?

The new man at the Kremlin.

In search of the real Chernenko: the evolution of an apparatchik.

IN COLOUR

The Beetle at 50.

A golden jubilee album of the immortal Volkswagen Beetle is published to coincide with a new version of the VW Golf.

Look.

Why men have a stiff upper lip and women are allowed to show their emotions.

Jeremy Irons, now starring in Tom Stoppard's "The Real Thing" on Broadway, explains why it's okay to be a success in the United States but not in Britain.



THE SUNDAY TIMES

All for 40p

THE ARTS

Television

Killer Waiting (Yorkshire TV) was television's answer to *The Revenger's Tragedy*, in which the intended victim of murder seemed about to snatch victory from the barrel of the other man's gun.

He was supposed to be "made to suffer" before his death, and so this hour-long drama was essentially concerned with the war of nerves which developed between hunter and hunted: not a particularly pleasant theme, and the film itself took great pains to emphasize both the suspense and the brutality implicit in it.

It had everything to which we have become accustomed - ravaging dogs, mutilated bodies, suicide, men in flames, hallucinogenic drugs, explosions, encroaching madness and, of course, lots of blood. Even Belfast made its by now ritual appearance as a contemporary Hades. This was not, in other words, a programme suitable

for the sensitive, or even for the intelligent.

For those who stop to reflect on such matters, in fact, it must have become clear that the "plot" was the merest vehicle for a number of gruesome scenes. The only thing to do with a thriller of this kind is to ham it up, and the action ended with a grand guignol flourish which would have been ridiculous if it were not so unpleasant.

It had the at least hypothetical advantage of being cheap to make: the film had a slightly ramshackle quality, and there were those obvious shadows on the walls which suggest that the lighting had been set up rather hastily. John Thaw seemed uncomfortable, although he did manage to convey some of that relish in savagery which he once used to great effect in *The Sweeney*. Diane Keen looked suitably horrified throughout.

Peter Ackroyd

WEEKEND CHOICE

The people in *People of the Islands* (tonight, Channel 4, 8.30pm) are the Eskimos of Hudson Bay. The islands are the Belchers. When they were last caught on film, the man behind the camera was Robert Flaherty; he was shooting *Nanook of the North*, and the year was 1922. Now Hugh Brody has followed in Flaherty's footsteps. No igloos for the Eskimos of 1984: no spectre of starvation. But the harpoon still bloodies the seal's breathing hole in the ice. All that is left of Flaherty's stay among the Inuit is the odd bullet case, riddled out of the stones on his old camp site. Flaherty would have approved of *People of the Islands*. It has that same steady, affectionate and searching eye for the truth about Eskimo life

that *Nanook* had. And the same merry twinkle in the eye.

It is not a twinkle, more a cheery chirp, that characterizes *One Pair of Eyes* (tomorrow, BBC2, 8.05pm) through which we glimpse the pneumatic world of Beryl Cook. Thanks to Jonathan Stedall's gently mocking film, we now know that the Cook people grow bigger so that the backgrounds can grow smaller, and that although Miss Cook knows she is accurate, she will not consult a psychiatrist because he would smooth away the very things that make her paint. Exactly what these are, we are not sure. The film's title itself is no help: *I Have No Message*.

Peter Davalle

One of the surprises about radio is that so many people who write for it - and I am talking this week particularly about comedy, although the point applies also to drama and features - never actually seem to have sat down and thought, "Now what are the unique and interesting qualities of this medium and how might I employ them?" Yet the models are there for anyone who doesn't know what those qualities are and periodically *Smash of the Day* exhibits some of them.

For this reason, one of the chief delights of *Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful* (Radio 4, Tuesdays and Thursdays; producer, Pete Atkin) is Guy Jenkins and Jon Canter's apt and inventive use of the medium. As listeners to the first

series will recall, it is set in a small advertising agency, Watson Wallfish, and accordingly the action is set in a small, and if need be, carried forward by a marvellously funny and effective device: the inclusion of a string of professionally performed (Joss Ackland, Miriam Margolyes...) adverts which cruelly reproduce the style of the real thing - if "real" is a word that can be used in such a context.

This new series, just past its second episode, has made a grand start: Watson Wallfish has been bought up, although dear Freddie, its proprietor, drunken and amnesiac as ever, typically omits to tell his staff, to find out by accident from an item in *Campaign*. The new owners are a "high-powered bunch and their top man a

Ballet Rambert Birmingham Rep

New works by two of Rambert's company choreographers were shown at Birmingham this week; they continue in repertory during the tour and in next month's season at Sadler's Wells. Robert North is the more seemingly original, Christopher Bruce's the more personal and passionate. Both are good examples of their choreographers' styles.

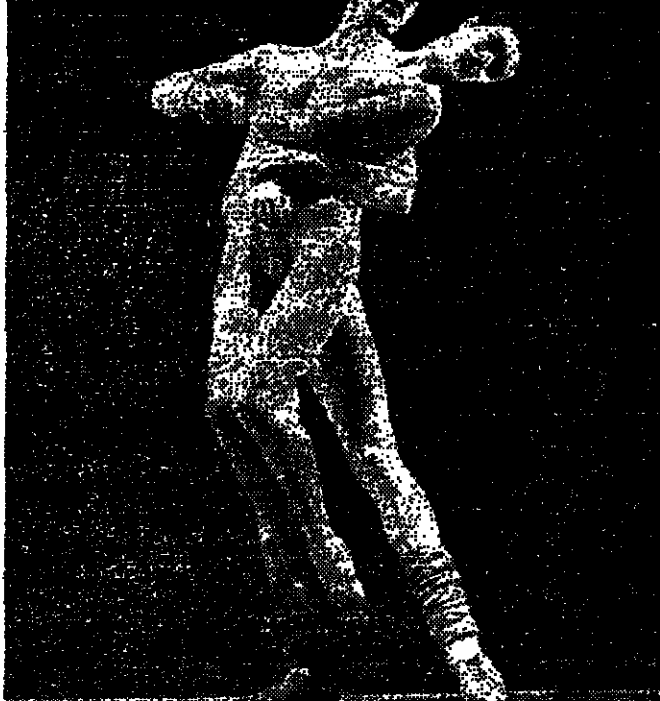
North has a flair for giving his pieces a distinctive theatrical atmosphere. In *Colour Moves* last September (repeated in these programmes) it came from Bridget Riley's backcloths; in the new *Entre des Agnes* it comes from an infusion of Spanish flavouring in the dances and, especially, the look of the ballet.

Andrew Storer's design provides a group of handsome chairs from which, when not involved, the dancers can stare and gower, flamenco-style; I should add that they take part in much vigorous action as well. His costumes suggest a Spanish troupe without slavish imitation. Mark Henderson's atmospheric (that's mainly dark) lighting reinforces the dramatic effect.

North says that his aim and that of his composer/transcriber Simon Rogers was to mix flamenco with jazz. Musically, the claim is just, although the heightened vitality of the final, title piece by Paco de Lucia shows up blandness in the rest.

Choreographically, the flamenco influence is clear, mainly in the general structuring, the

Ballet



Original: Robert North and Cathrine Price in *Colour Moves*

hand movements punctuating North's solo, and Lucy Burge's arched back in a big adagio.

Beneath the Iberian spices, the dance material seems to me not jazz but North's familiar mix (hardly distinguishable, for instance, from *Colour Moves*) of mainstream modern dance with a touch of ballet, the personal quality coming mainly from the manner of standing and walking. But good packaging makes the product attractive.

Christopher Bruce's *Intimate Pages* is at least the fourth ballet for a British company to Janacek's score (Singing Quartet No. 2, recently played by Rambert's musicians), but much the deepest and most moving. Moving, actually, in both senses, because the strong emotions are achieved through dances of swift, powerful action based on a very clearly defined expressive motifs.

The first movement is set for

Radio Medium rare

fellow in comparison with whom the late Joseph Stalin might easily be mistaken for Bruce Forsyth. I look forward to making his further acquaintance, provided there is always several miles of radio wave between us.

Another thing that *Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful* demonstrates is the blessing of a good script and so, for rather different reasons, does Radio 4's newest comedy series, *Don't Stop Now - It's Foundation* (Monday and Tuesday; producer, Alan Nixon) which is described as a cabaret. It can't have been oversold on the part

of the BBC's press information which prejudiced me against this enterprise, since I only read it after I had done my listening, but it did help to confirm me in a very grim opinion.

What I heard was a string of material, most of it mediocre, but with the sort of large confidence and energy which in fact serves to depress the listener still further - perhaps because it suggests that the performers have no idea they are riding a loser. This effect was enhanced by the studio audience whose exceptionally raucous laughter persuaded me either that they

were getting something in their studio not available to me in my living room, or that they had conspired with the members of *Foundation* to give them a rave send-off, or that they had no idea that they were laughing at a loser. Or all three.

Over on Radio 2 a third comedy newcomer, *The Best of Benjamine* (Sundays and Fridays; producer, Jamie Rix) does at least reveal - as you might hope and expect of a one-time Cooch - an architect's discretion as to how to use the medium. But again I get the impression that the material is not what it might be: Benjamine as solo writer has set himself too much to do and then, as solo performer, he has to try too hard to make it work.

In the past couple of weeks, Radio 3 has been putting out a series of somewhat variable

a man, repeatedly reaching out to a young woman whose response is sometimes to confide her own hand, sometimes to snatch it back. Her own characteristic movement pattern is of bending and falling - now towards him, now away. Albert van Nierop makes the hunger of the man's approaches painfully vivid; Frances Carry gives the woman a warm tenderness.

In the subsequent movements they are interrupted, disturbed and tormented, singly or together, by four other dancers, all small and swift, who probably represent thoughts, desires and memories rather than other people. Bruce skilfully rings the changes of relationship to strengthen and develop the patterns already set.

The central situation obviously derives from the personal circumstances and feelings that inspired Janacek's music, but the ballet treats it as a theme of universal concern, which Bruce handles with a sense of urgency and commitment, calling to mind the favour of some of his earlier, partly autobiographical ballets.

At the end, he allows his main characters to find peace and comfort in death. Walter Nobbe's abstract setting and simple, apt costumes make the ballet look very handsome.

Telephone transmission disrupted my report on the Festival Ballet's new programme earlier this week. I wanted to say that Mark Silver's performance in *The Aquarium* was never cramped; it came out as "somewhat cramped". Sorry.

John Percival

attraction under the general heading of *A Day in the Life of...* (producer, Penny Gold). We heard how John Ruskin, A. C. Benson, Arnold Bennett and James Agate spent not so much a day as a period in their lives. Such events depend on two things for success: quality of script, and quality of reading. The latter was always very serviceable, but not distinguished. So what separated these four programmes one from another were the scripts, or more exactly the impression given of each man by this selection from his own letters, diaries, etc. Ruskin and Bennett came over a bit ponderous, even tiresome. Benson and particularly Agate sharper, more mercurial. I felt the better for their company.

David Wade

Theatre

Voice that rings true

Saint Joan Oliver

As the one Shaw play beloved by anti-Shavians, Shaw-lovers are perhaps unfairly inclined to underrate *Saint Joan*. Each time I see it, I prepare myself for a revelation of what its latest director, Ronald Eyre, calls a theatrical "Everest", and each time the vision fails to materialize.

For one thing, the piece presents a catalogue of all Shaw's most irritating stylistic habits: displays of false hair on the chest, garrulousness, flimsy poeticism, and thick-skinned hypocrisy. The figure of Joan herself, besides supplying a heroine who fits the Creative Evolutionary pattern while neatly side-stepping the sexual danger zone, ought to crown the succession of Shaw's crusading ladies. But, alone among them, she has no recognizable voice of her own.

Although by far the most gripping scene in the piece is the argument in Warwick's tent, in which she does not appear, it is usually considered that the only reason for mounting the play is the availability of an actress with the requisite heroic muscle.

In fact, heroic muscle is needed only in the trial scene (based on the court records), and the principal requirement for stamina and tenacity. At all events, I can think of no living actress better equipped than Frances de la Tour to endear sceptical modern audiences to the role.

Lanky, angular, and with a face that reflects the passage of every emotion with the utmost transparency, she is also totally set against the rhetoric of the part. The price she pays is that of vocal monotony. La Tour is an artist in deflationary inflections; and where others would seize moments like her successive triumphs on the way to the siege of Orleans as opportunities for climax, she takes them in her stride, as the inevitable outcome of divine prompting. The advantages are that, for once, the speeches on the angelic voices ring true (she speaks the bell passage in the coronation scene instead of chanting it), and even "Light your fires" comes over as something pulled up from the gut, instead of the usual rhapsodic audition piece.

Mr. Eyre's production is a four-star affair, magnificently



Frances de la Tour

set by John Gunter in the midst of a group of mobile castellated towers or blackened timber (sorting beautifully with dazling silk banners), resounding with ceremoniously Gallic faes by Ilona Selazek.

The major political and ecclesiastical roles can look after themselves, which is not to deny the complex diplomatic chess game that Michael Bryant and Anton Rodgers play in the tent scene, nor the unusual sight Mr Rodgers gives of Warwick the soldier when he invades the empty trial chamber at the head of a dangerous pack of god-dams. Cyril Cusack, spinning his lines out with spidery web for stamina and tenacity. At all events, I can think of no living actress better equipped than Frances de la Tour to endear sceptical modern audiences to the role.

More surprising is the part reclamation of some of the more one-dimensional parts: the bullying de Baudricourt, for instance, in whom Brian Glover finds unsuspected resources of gentility and appealing weakness, and John Savident's Archbishop, who emerges as a classic example of Shaw's ability to explode a character as a fraud and then reconstitute him. Timothy Spall performs a reverse operation on the Dauphin, showing all his sympathetic impotence in a court of bullies (crossing the full length of the stage to snap his fingers in de la Tour's face), and then subsiding into cold-hearted giggling selfishness.

In short, it is the most persuasive account of the play I have seen; but I still believe that Shaw was congratulating himself too soon when he said he had written it "to save the subject from Drunkwater".

Irving Wardle

House of Lords

Law Report February 18 1984

Court of Appeal

Statutory or common law conspiracy

Regina v Ayres
Lord Scarman, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Templeman

[Speeches delivered February 16]

Having regard to sections 1 and 5 of the Criminal Law Act 1977 (as amended), a conspiracy to defraud at common law could only be charged when the evidence did not support any statutory, substantive conspiracy.

The House of Lords so held unanimously in *Regina v Ayres* from the dismissal by the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice O'Connor, Mr Justice Kilner Brown and Mr Justice Popplewell) (77 The Times December 8, 1983) of his appeal against his conviction on October 15, 1982, at Reading Crown Court (Judge Hilliard) of conspiracy to defraud.

Mr A. D. Rawley, QC, and Mr Christopher Wilson-Smith for the appellant; Mr Igor Judge, QC, and Mr Julian Roughton for the Crown. LORD BRIDGE said that in *Regina v Ayres* the House of Lords had effected a radical amendment of the law of criminal conspiracy.

Criminal conspiracies were now of four kinds: (1) A conspiracy to commit one or more substantive criminal offences contrary to section 1 of the Act. (2) A conspiracy made an offence as to some other enactment. (3) A common law conspiracy to defraud: section 5(2). (4) A common law conspiracy to corrupt public morals or outrage public decency: section 5(3).

The appeal was concerned with the relationship between conspiracies under (1) and (3) and the resolution of a conflict of judicial opinion as to where the line of demarcation should be drawn between statutory conspiracies under section 1 and common law conspiracies to defraud in relation to a large and important class of conspiracies which, on their face, appeared to be capable of falling within either category.

Some judicial dicta might be understood as suggesting that the choice whether to prosecute for a statutory conspiracy under section 1 or a common law conspiracy to defraud was one dictated by convenience and that in many cases both options might be open.

His Lordship had no hesitation at the outset in rejecting that argument. According to the true construction of the Act, an offence which amounted to a common law conspiracy to defraud must be charged as such and not as a statutory conspiracy under section 1. Conversely, a section 1 conspiracy could not be charged as a common law conspiracy to defraud. A few months later the issue reached the Court of Appeal in *Regina v Walters* (1979) 69 Cr App R 115.

In that case Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, referring to Mr Justice Drake's ruling, said: "... he took the view, which personally I support as at present advised, that it is perfectly proper to regard a

conspiracy to steal as something within the conspiracy to defraud, and accordingly, therefore, if truly the offence is conspiracy to steal, the indictment is not rendered invalid merely because it charges a conspiracy to defraud."

Very soon after that the point was raised again in the Court of Appeal in *Regina v Duncalf* ([1979] 1 WLR 918) where, in a closely reasoned and careful judgment by the Lord Justice Roskill concluded that their Lordships were unable to agree with Mr Justice Drake's ruling in *Quinn* or with the dictum tentatively advanced by the court Lord Justice Roskill said that the point should be left to be decided by the House of Lords.

One might have thought that that decision would have settled the controversy, but the present appeal and, it was understood, other cases involving the same point, showed that it was not to be so. The instant case was one of a conspiracy to defraud an insurance company by falsely claiming that a fire (insured for £2,500) and contents (insured for £10,000) had been stolen. Carrying the conspiracy into effect might have involved the commission of other offences, but it was not to be so.

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Further considerations pointed to the same conclusion. Adopting a purposive approach to construction, it was difficult indeed to suppose that Parliament, while limiting the punishment of conspirators to a maximum appropriate for the substantive offences they had conspired to commit and giving them the added protection of requiring approval from the Director of Public Prosecutions for the prosecution if the substantive offences in question were summary offences, should have intended to deny both those advantages to any person agreeing to commit a substantive offence involving an element of fraud, however trivial that offence might be.

It remained to consider whether any light was thrown on the issue by comparing the language of section 5(2) with that of section 5(3). So far as one could judge from the report of *Quinn* Mr Justice Drake seemed to have based his ruling primarily on a distinction in the statutory language applied to the two common law conspiracies preserved by the Act. His Lordship did not find that convincing.

If section 5(2) had imposed on the preserved common law offence of conspiracy to defraud a restriction in comparable terms to those used in section 5(3)(b) that would have left in limbo those conspiracies to defraud where the evidence left in doubt the question whether the execution of the agreement would or would not necessarily have involved the commission of some substantive offence by one or more of the conspirators.

His Lordship would conclude that the phrase "conspiracy to defraud" in section 5(2) must be construed as limited to an agreement which, if carried into effect, would not necessarily involve the commission of any substantive criminal offence by any of the conspirators. Accordingly his Lordship would answer the certified question in the affirmative.

The effect of that ruling should not create undue difficulty for prosecutors or judges. In the overwhelming majority of conspiracy cases it would be obvious that performance of the agreement which constituted the conspiracy would necessarily involve, and frequently could in fact have already involved, the commission of one or more of the substantive offences. In such cases one or more counts of conspiracy, as appropriate, should be charged under section 1 of the Act.

Only the exceptional fraudulent agreement would need to be charged as a common law conspiracy to defraud, when either it was clear that performance of the agreement would not have involved the commission of any substantive criminal offence or it was uncertain whether or not it would do so.

In case of doubt, it might be appropriate to include two counts in the indictment in the alternative. It would then be for the judge to decide how to leave the case to the jury at the conclusion of the evidence, bearing always in mind that the crucial issue was whether performance of the agreement constituting the conspiracy would necessarily involve the commission

of a substantive offence by a conspirator. If it would, it was a section 1 conspiracy. If it would not, it was a common law conspiracy to defraud.

It followed that the appellant had been convicted upon an indictment which did not charge him accurately with the only offence which he could properly be convicted.

The appeal should be allowed unless the proviso to section 2(1) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 could be applied on the ground that no actual miscarriage of justice had occurred.

If the statement and particulars of the offence in an indictment disclosed no criminal offence whatever or charged some offence which had been abolished, in which case the indictment could fairly be called a nullity, it was obvious that a conviction under that indictment could not stand.

The particulars of offence in the present indictment left no one in doubt that the substance of the crime alleged was a conspiracy to obtain money by deception.

The judge in summing up gave all appropriate directions in relation to that offence.

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Northern Regional Health Authority v Derek Crouch Construction Co Ltd and Another

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Dunn and Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson. [Judgment delivered February 17]

Where parties had agreed on machinery giving wide powers to an arbitrator to review the exercise of an architect's discretion as to how to use the medium, but again I get the impression that the material is not what it might be: Benjamine as solo writer has set himself too much to do and then, as solo performer, he has to try too hard to make it work.

The Court of Appeal in reserved judgments dismissed an appeal by the plaintiffs, the Northern Regional Health Authority, from the dismissal by Judge Smout, QC, sitting as an Official Referee on December 12, 1983 of their application for an injunction restraining the first and second defendants, Derek Crouch Construction Co Ltd, and Crown House Engineering Ltd respectively, from seeking arbitration away from the court to intervene and replace its own process for the contractual machinery agreed by the parties.

The Court of Appeal in reserved judgments dismissed an appeal by the plaintiffs, the Northern Regional Health Authority, from the dismissal by Judge Smout, QC, sitting as an Official Referee on December 12, 1983 of their application for an injunction restraining the first and second defendants, Derek Crouch Construction Co Ltd, and Crown House Engineering Ltd respectively, from seeking arbitration away from the court to intervene and replace its own process for the contractual machinery agreed by the parties.

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Queen's Bench Division

Correcting justices' error in payments order

Regina v Chester Justices, Ex parte Holland

An order which incorrectly reflected the agreement put before Justices and which the justices refused to correct could be rectified on an application for judicial review.

Mr Justice Hollings, sitting as the one or more of the substantive offences by one or more of the conspirators. In such cases one or more counts of conspiracy, as appropriate, should be charged under section 1 of the Act.

Only the exceptional fraudulent agreement would need to be charged as a common law conspiracy to defraud, when either it was clear that performance of the agreement would not have involved the commission of any substantive criminal offence or it was uncertain whether or not it would do so.

In case of doubt, it might be appropriate to include two counts in the indictment in the alternative. It would then be for the judge to decide how to leave the case to the jury at the conclusion of the evidence, bearing always in mind that the crucial issue was whether performance of the agreement constituting the conspiracy would necessarily involve the commission

of a substantive offence by a conspirator. If it would, it was a section 1 conspiracy. If it would not, it was a common law conspiracy to defraud.

Chester to send the order directly to the parties. It was not until the Inland Revenue notified the wife that she was liable for tax that it was appreciated by the solicitors that the order was incorrect.

On September 28, 1982 the solicitors wrote to the clerk to the justices inviting him to rectify the order. In November, the clerk to the justices replied that the court clerk stated that the order made was the correct order.

The wife applied by judicial review for an order of mandamus directing the justices to rectify the order. There was good reason to waive the time limit.

His Lordship had been referred to *Cohen v Cohen* (1947) P 147 and *Jolliffe v Jolliffe* (1965) P 6. It was clear from those authorities that the order of a magistrates' court made in pursuance of a statutory duty could be corrected by a subsequent order of the court if it was found to be incorrect.

In the absence of evidence from the justices and in the light of the evidence from both solicitors the court was satisfied that the order made was drawn up incorrectly and made from an inaccurate minute.

There would be an order of mandamus directing the justices to correct the record.

Solicitors: Philip Jones, Hillier & Jackson, Chester.

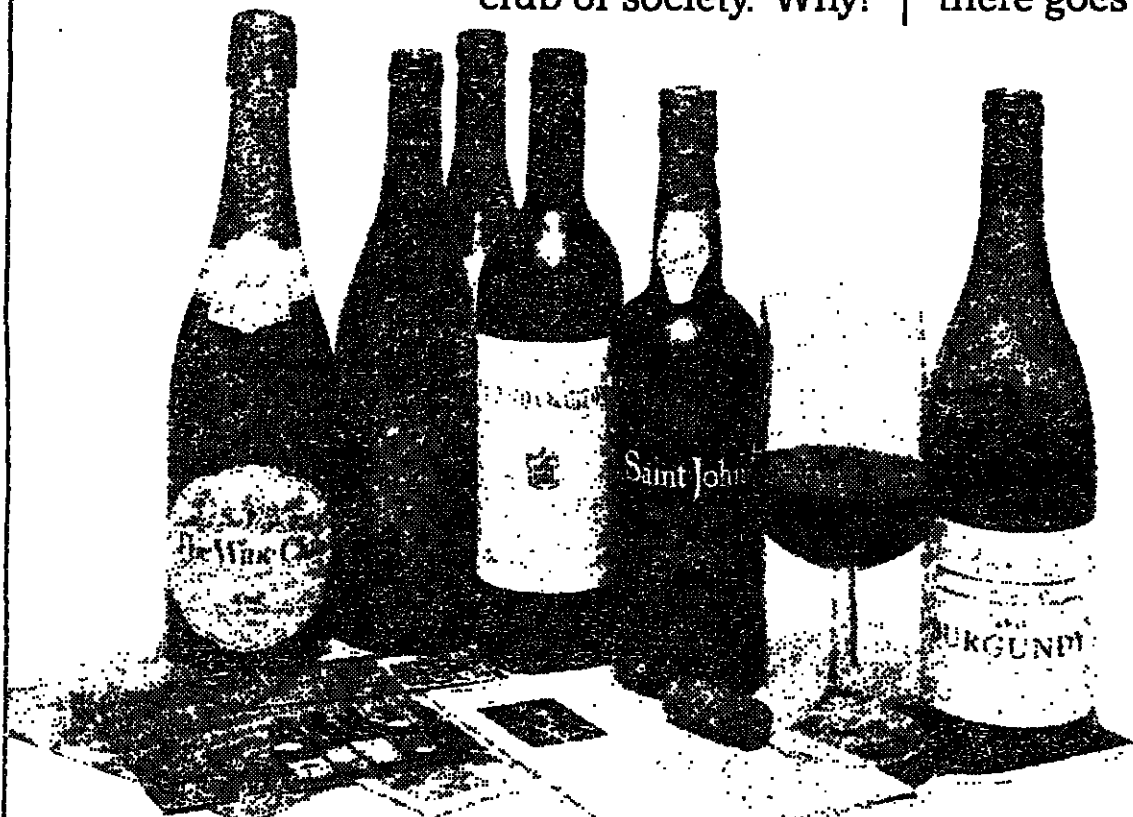


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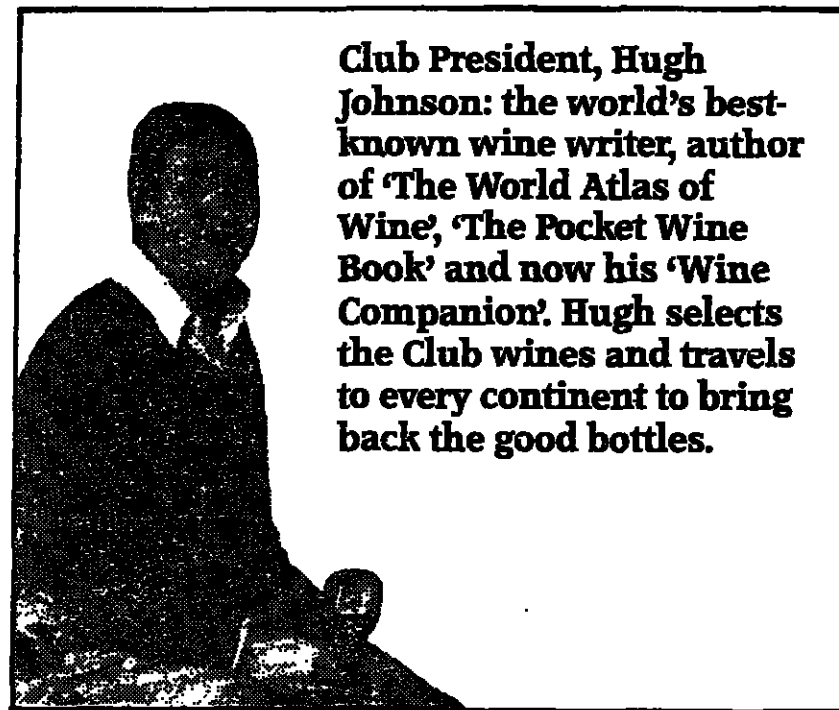
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SPORTING DIARY

The not so stable lads

They have a dope problem at Tolboog racetrack. It affects the jockeys, who have been known to turn up stoned out of their skulls and have been forced to step down from their mounts. However, the training gallops there would warm the heart of the British Sikh stable lad who cannot find a crash-bat big enough to fit over his turban. Many of the Trinidadian lads are Rastafarian, who cram messy heads of dreadlocks into their helmets.

Sent off

V. Anbramov of Topolsk Dinamo has become the ultimate soccer hooligan. After a recent match, he was accosted in the town's best restaurant by a supporter who criticized his performance. Abramov took the man outside and stabbed him. He is now doing 10 years in jail.

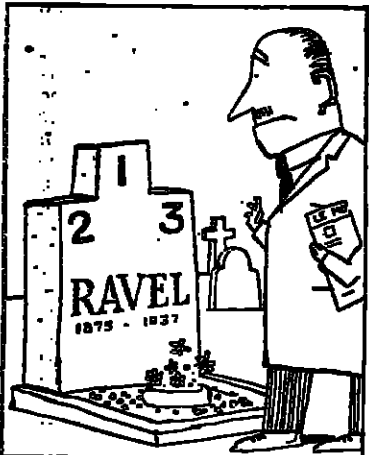
● The Football Association's director of coaching, Charles Hughes, tells us that Brazilian football is "ill-conceived". Oh, for an Englishman as ill-conceived as Pele...

No count

Yes, we all know that 147 is the maximum snooker break, but what about billiards? Well, in 1907, Tom Reece managed 499,135. It took him 85 hours, 49 minutes. It was a "cradle break" made after juggling two balls in the jaws of a pocket, and is now illegal. And anyway, it doesn't really count, because there were no witnesses.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK from Tommy David, a Rugby Union forward who switched to Rugby League: "The biggest difference between League and Union is that now I get my hangovers on Mondays instead of Sunday."

BARRY FANTONI



A lot brewing

Never let it be said that fast bowlers are anything but men of parts. Rupert Hanley, who joins Northamptonshire from South Africa next season, does more than just send down bouncers. "He's apparently a painter of some note," said the county's secretary-manager, Ken Turner. "But we are not fooled by that."

Hanley is part of a long tradition of multi-faceted speed merchants. We have John Snow, with his slim volume of verse; Bob Willis, fighting in the captain's tower, who added Dylan to his names by deed poll because of his admiration for the singer Bob Dylan; Senator Wes Hall of the Barbados parliament; Maurice Alton, tenor saxophonist in the jazz band Quinquaginta Club Ramblers, who made several records; and the nineteenth century Australian S. M. J. Woods, who went native and spent much time in his adopted Somerset studying brewing.

● Chris Smith is not yet in the master class. His last England innings was only the fourth slowest half-century for our boys. Trevor Bailey has done better, and so has Chris Tavaré - twice. *Malire!*

Foggy foggy do

Alan Moreley has apparently scored more tries for Bristol than any one else. He passed the existing mark of 312 last Tuesday, scoring four tries in the match, but the match was played in such impossibly foggy conditions that no one saw any of them...and we must take them on trust.

Header hunting

A traveller returned from Borneo in a state of awe to tell me that, dominating one wall of a longhouse on the banks of the Sungai Niah river, is a picture of Manchester United football team.

● What price glory? The Stock Exchange has formed its own American Football team, the Stock Exchange Stars. It offers coaching and full equipment for every closet Too-Tall Jones who stalks the real corridors of power.

Jaw needed

It's a social problem, isn't it? Something to do with a mindless minority. Yes, I'm talking about the vexed subject of volleyball violence. The Scottish Volleyball Association is determined to act. Recent cases include a jaw "accidentally" broken, players swearing through the net, and, indeed, tearing the net down in their fury. One player was taken to court and "admonished" after slapping a referee. The referee, however, is still banned.

Simon Barnes

BBC choice: Reith or wreath

Rumours about changes at the top of BBC Television have been steadily gaining credence. The corporation is seldom entirely free from such talk, but this time internal and external pressures have made a decisive move almost inevitable. And changes now rather than later make sense to clear the ground for the battle for a higher licence fee in March next year.

The present talk began when a minister - unidentified - suggested to lobby correspondents that *The Thorn Birds* was so bad that it might jeopardize the BBC's chance of a licence increase. The BBC squeezed details out of the Home Office and Aubrey Singer, managing director of BBC Television, dismissed the gaffe with the words, "It was a sort of mad frisson on somebody's part". In contrast to such public asides, in private the offender was metaphorically nailed to the pavement at Shepherd's Bush while obscenities were howled in his ears.

The Thorn Birds was no worse than *Dallas* or any number of other programmes, so clearly the whole story was absurd. But the intensity of the reaction gave the game away.

The BBC now lives in a condition of irate defensiveness. Behind this lies a loss of direction, conviction and ideology. Deny it as its staff repeatedly do, there is no question that BBC Television is suffering a crisis of morale. For, on top of the ratings, licence fee and political worries, including the *Panorama* affair, there is also the dawning realization that it has lost its monopoly of the intelligentsia. The thinkers and the articulate are now

more likely to be watching Channel 4 than BBC 2.

First the obvious problem. The advent of satellite and cable could mean the end of the licence-fee and advertising-based monopolies of the BBC and the IBA. The BBC takes the view that both are more remote than most people think and that they will need regulating as much as any other form of broadcasting.

But the technology links neatly with the aspirations of the New Right within the Government. It offers the possibility of a truly free market in broadcasting and has concentrated a large part of Tory thinking on the process whereby the present monopolies could be unwound. Yet the Tory paternalists are as strong as ever. In spite of its failings the BBC still represents to them a protection against unfettered pornography and violence. It appeals to their instincts for security.

After the end of March the corporation will be in its final year of the three-year spell with a £46 fee. It wants a big increase, but the political obstacles are enormous and the sheer difficulty of announcing that people have to find more money could well unsettle even the paternalists.

Alternatives are being discussed by Tory backbenchers - specifically the privatization of BBC Radio, starting with Radio 1. To head this off, Alasdair Milne, the Director-General, will soon be making speeches defending the paternalistic view of regulated broadcasting. The trick is to widen the debate to preempt even minor attempts at privatization. The point is, as Singer

has said, that the sheer simplicity of privatization as a political option, as opposed to licence-fee increases, would make this the thin end of a very thick wedge.

On the straight lump-sum argument the BBC has started badly. Television's share of the £46 fee income is £520m. Singer, in *The Listener*, and the Controller of Programmes, Brian Wenham, have pointed out that the IBA companies will receive £820m this year and £1,000m next. Singer has incorrectly called the figures net. But the IBA says they are gross and once exchequer levy, taxes and the additional costs of running a large number of fragmented companies, not to mention Channel 4, are taken into account the figures for BBC and ITV are probably more or less comparable. In any case, overall cost comparisons between the two networks are well known in the business to be all but impossible. The BBC weakens its case by attempting them.

The defence has to be better than that. So the pressure is now on Milne to come up with some visionary answers. These will not only need to answer the outside critics but also to boost morale inside the corporation. For that is where the present crises are being most profoundly felt.

For the producers, technicians and performers it is clear that some kind of new creative impulse is desperately needed. They are likely for the moment only to detect internal management rivalry alternating with bouts of furious debates about ratings, money or politics.

The mind of management seems to be elsewhere and meanwhile there are an ominous number of leaving parties at Television Centre. Talent is being drained away by Channel 4 and the independent production sector.

Inevitably this creates a certain desperation among those who remain. Once they led a privileged existence, sanctioned by a proudly independent public service agency to pursue their own standards of excellence. But that specific *raison d'être* has been diluted. However much the BBC may claim that its very existence has led to higher standards by the independent sector, it is that very sector which now often produces the higher quality.

Deeply entrenched as it is in BBC habits and thinking, the present management is reluctant to acknowledge the imperative need to bring in fresh talent from outside and it lacks the external experience of previous champions of the corporation who brought the right kind of wider perspective to the argument.

Only by external criteria can the BBC really define and defend itself. Its responses based only on the self-perpetuating logic of the television industry cut no ice because they seem compromised and are not set in a wider social context. They fail to exploit the broad public support which the BBC undoubtedly enjoys. Some form of the Reithian god needs to be reinstated to whom the BBC can appeal over everybody's heads. It is up to Milne, and whoever survives the reshuffle.

Bryan Appleyard

Champion of the petit homme

Diana Geddes records the rise of Jean-Marie Le Pen, the far right leader who has suddenly become a force in French politics

Paris. Suddenly, everyone is talking about Le Pen, leader of the extreme right National Front. His florid round face is everywhere, beaming, snarling, arrogant, benign. "Who is afraid of Jean-Marie Le Pen?" one magazine asked of the man who only a couple of years ago was lucky to get a score of people coming to listen to his speeches, and who now regularly fills halls to overflowing.

Last year, it was the "Barre phenomenon" which dominated the Parisian salons, as Giscard d'Estaing's former prime minister rose to popularity after being one of the most despised politicians in the Fifth Republic. Now it looks as if Le Pen will take over as the "flavour of the year" after 25 years in the political wilderness. Most of the talk is far from complimentary, but any publicity is good for Le Pen at the moment.

The polarization of French political life after the Socialist election victory in 1981, coupled with the deepening of the economic crisis and aggravation of East-West tensions, catapulted the National Front to a marginal party to a political force to be reckoned with.

The Front's nationalistic, anti-immigrant, anti-immigrant line seems to be attracting a growing band of voters fed up with all the traditional parties - appealing to the little man, the uneducated *petit bourgeois*, who feels he has somehow been forgotten, fears the rise in crime and unemployment and reverses, or at least pays lip service to, family, hard work, law and order, and *la patrie*.

There are, too, the young hangers-on, the bully boys who can be seen in force at every National Front rally with their short back and sides and their black leather jackets. They handclap in rhythm and deliciously chant "Le Pen! Le Pen!" They whistle and boo when the name of any politician outside the ranks of the National Front is mentioned (with the loudest cat-calls reserved for the more moderate right-wing leaders), cry for the blood of the "communist murderers", and applaud loudest when speakers inveigh against "the anarchic invasion of our country by immigrants".

In the past year the National Front has scored a series of dramatic victories, starting with Le Pen's own



Le Pen and wife Anne-Marie: He just loves some more than others

success in the municipal elections last March when he won 11 per cent of the vote in the heavily immigrant twentieth arrondissement of Paris - the highest vote for an extreme-right candidate in any election since Tixier-Vignancour, Le Pen's former mentor, won 5 per cent of the vote in the 1965 presidential elections.

People said it was a flash in the pan, or that it was simply part of a racist backlash that was sweeping the country. But then came the National Front's successes in the municipal by-elections in Dreux (17 per cent) and Aulnay-sous-Bois (9 per cent), followed last December by the parliamentary by-election in the Morbihan in Brittany where Le Pen won 12 per cent of the vote in a predominantly rural constituency with hardly a single immigrant.

The character of Le Pen himself plays an important role. The son of a Breton fisherman, he has never lost the common touch though he now lives in great luxury in a nineteenth century hunting lodge in St Cloud on the outskirts of Paris. He inherited the house eight years ago, along with a sizable fortune, from an admirer of his politics whose family unsuccessfully contested the will. He also runs his own recording company, specializing in historic archives, which has got him into trouble more than once for its recordings of fascist songs and speeches. Le Pen answers critics by saying that the company has also published speeches by Churchill, de Gaulle and even Mitterrand.

Born in 1923, Le Pen was too young to fight in the Second World War, but after school under the Jesuits in Brittany, and a degree in law from Paris, he joined the army as a paratrooper. He fought in Vietnam, Suez and Algeria, and is extremely nostalgic about military life, regretting the passing of France's imperial past. As part of the right-wing Poujadist movement in the mid-1950s, he was elected to

parliament at the age of 27. He joined a succession of right-wing groups, finally founding the National Front in 1978.

With his tall, bulky but solid body, his single blue eye (the other eye was lost in one of the many of his political attacks against him), and his graying blond hair, he cuts an impressive figure. At public meetings, surrounded by admirers, he can exude a charm and warmth rare among French politicians. He is articulate, amusing, a *bon raconteur*. But when attacked, he can retaliate with ferocity.

Last Monday, after years of persistent requests, Le Pen was finally granted his first full-length television interview, to the disgust of commentators who say this is bestowing a mark of respectability on the man.

Questions on racism, anti-semitism and fascism dominated the one-and-a-half hour programme, despite Le Pen's desire to talk about other issues he says he is concerned with: rising taxes, the threat to farmers of the EEC, falling educational standards and the government's plans to abolish the predominantly Catholic private schools, the need for a return of the death penalty, the moral decadence of western society, the falling birthrate in western countries in the face of the exploding populations in the Third World.

Le Pen hotly denies that he is racist or anti-semitic. "It is silly," he is fond of explaining, "that I love my daughters more than my nieces, my nieces more than my neighbours, my neighbours more than the citizens in the next-door town, and those people more than foreigners". As for the Jews, he says he is opposed to any form of persecution for reasons of religion or race. "But I don't see why that should oblige me to like Mme Veil's abortion laws, Chagall's paintings, or Mendes France's politics."

The National Front, he says, stands first and foremost for France and French culture and values. "Those who came to France as immigrants, and who then remained to become integrated into French society, adopting French nationality and loving France are wholly French. But the immigrant workers are different. They came to this country to get work at a time when their interests and those of France happened to coincide. The convergence of interests no longer exists now that we have two million unemployed."

The fact that France also has two million immigrant workers fits in neatly with Le Pen's argument. "The tide of immigration must be turned," he cries in Powelton tones, "otherwise tomorrow the immigrants will be in your home, eating your soup, sleeping with your wife or daughter."

Le Pen is planning to include several French North Africans on his list of candidates for the European Parliament elections in June. With typical panache, he is predicting that the National Front will win between 10 and 15 per cent of the vote, overtaking the Communist Party and thereby becoming the "third political force in the country". The recent decision of the two main opposition parties, the VDF and Gaullist RPR, to join forces for the European elections under the moderate Mme Simone Veil may well help the National Front attract voters in search of a more muscular opposition.

The growing threat presented by the National Front is clear in the abrupt change of tack earlier this week by the RPR. Having long cold-shouldered the National Front, M. Claude Labbé, leader of the RPR party in the National Assembly, astonished political commentators by declaring that the opposition must "learn to live with Le Pen". "M Le Pen exists," M Labbé said. "He is now a political reality."

very much aware of its powers. I know of one or two who've been offered things at prices they thought excessive and declined."

John Walsh agrees that his museum can be as frugal as the next. "We negotiate prices like everyone else. Dealers will tell you we are rather concerned about prices."

Hoping to ally his colleagues' fears, Walsh has announced that a large chunk of the Getty's money will not go to art works, but to the new \$100m museum to be built on a 160-acre site on a hilltop in the Los Angeles suburb of Brentwood, which will incorporate the J. Paul Getty Centre for the History of Art and the Humanities and Conservation Institute. The purchase of an additional 600 acres adjacent to the property, earmarked for a fine arts centre, has also been announced.

The new institute will house an international art research library and up to 40 scholars in residence. An art library will ultimately house 450,000 volumes.

Some rival museum directors have suggested that the Getty could be even more ambitious internationally. "It could become a little Unesco," suggests Michael Kan, deputy director of the Detroit Institute of Art. "It could restore the Parthenon and other ancient monuments."

Ivor Davis

Building up an art collection in Britain today. Page 11.

Simon Lyster

Falklands plunder that has to stop

I have just returned from a month in the Falklands where there is a growing sense of frustration at the failure of the British Government to safeguard from foreign plundering one of the islands' most important natural resources: their offshore fish stocks.

The seas around the Falklands and South Georgia are some of the best fishing grounds in the world. Until a few years ago they were largely untouched, but they are now being heavily exploited by Polish, Spanish, Russian and Japanese trawlers. A vitally important marine ecosystem is being threatened, and neither Britain nor the Falklands is receiving even short-term financial rewards.

Why? - because the British Government has failed to declare a 200-mile fishing zone around the islands and their dependencies. Beyond just three miles from the Falklands coastline trawlers are free to take as much fish as they can catch without paying Britain or the Falklands anything, and the foreign factory ships are rushing in to share the spoils.

The right of states to declare 200-mile fishing zones around their coastlines is now firmly established as customary international law. Indeed there has been such a zone around UK coastlines since 1976. These 200-mile zones have economic advantages because coastal states can either fish the zones themselves or exact licence fees from foreign fishermen for the privilege. It is estimated that the Falkland Islanders could expect an annual income of at least £3m in licence fees.

The 200-mile zones also make good sense from a conservation point of view because they enable coastal states to limit fishing to a level that can be sustained year after year. If there is no zone it is in everybody's interest to take what they can while they can, because if they do not somebody else will. This is what happened to the whales, and it will happen again to the Falklands fish stocks unless swift remedial action is taken.

Some 10 years ago a foreign fishing vessel in the waters around the Falklands or South Georgia was a relatively rare sight. By 1979 numbers were growing slowly, and since the war with Argentina they have risen sharply.

Statistics are hard to come by because only the Poles have volunteered precise figures, but even these are revealing. In 1979 the Poles reported having an average of nine trawlers in the area in any one month. For the last half of 1983 they reported an average of over 60. There are no statistics on catch levels prior to September 1983, but in the three months from September to November last year the Poles alone reported taking 99,408 tonnes of fish. The catches of the Russian, Japanese and Spanish vessels can only be guessed at, but they are undoubtedly very large.

This totally unregulated, rapidly increasing foreign fishery could ruin the prospect of a profitable long-term fishing industry in the Falklands. It could also seriously damage other species dependent on a plentiful marine food supply. The Falklands and their dependencies

are rightly famous for their spectacular breeding colonies of penguins, albatrosses and seals. They are also vital nesting areas for less well known sea birds such as slender billed prion and giant petrel. These species all require large supplies of food in offshore waters during the breeding season, and excessive fishing in their feeding areas could be disastrous.

The declaration of a 200-mile zone and the establishment of a



Baroness Young: Fears unfounded

fisheries management programme makes obvious good sense. So why has the British Government not yet done it? Baroness Young, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, implied during her visit to the Falklands in January that such a declaration might upset diplomatic efforts to improve relations with Argentina. Yet Argentina has no more to gain from a depletion of Falklands fish stocks than we do. The islanders have also been told that a fishing zone might be difficult to enforce because Poland and Russia do not officially recognize British claims to the Falklands and might refuse to abide by any zone that Britain declares. However, Russian ships stayed well clear of the exclusion zone during the war, and there is little evidence that the Soviet block wants a serious confrontation with Britain in the South Atlantic.

The Falkland Islanders are friendly, hospitable people who love Britain and are extremely grateful for their liberation from Argentine occupation. They are naturally reluctant to criticize British Government policy, but they are becoming steadily more disturbed at our willingness to see their fish stocks plundered. The Government is under no domestic pressure to act because the British public and media know little of this scandal and have said less. It must speak up.

It would be said if we were to allow the opportunities for a profitable fishing industry in the Falklands to disappear. It would be unforgivable if we were to allow a fabulously rich marine ecosystem to go the way of the whales.

The author is honorary secretary, Falkland Islands Foundation.

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Roy Strong

Have you met the drunken butler?

Having servants these days is an increasingly rare experience. Gone are the days of shock like those of a friend's grandmother who disapproved in her old age that the milk arrived in bottles, or another elderly woman who never got up because she had no lady's maid. On her bedside table, laid ready to hand, were her two props of life, the Bible and *Debut*. Or one calls to mind another friend whose mother-in-law held up her hands in horror on learning that there would no longer be a head housemaid, as though that were the wreck of the family's fortunes.

For us humbler souls all this sounds like Ruritania, as the man that the declining upper classes now aspire to is a hired freelance domestic, or an au pair from the Philippines or Portugal. Anyone who has struggled to leave a telephone message with the latter will warm to the anonymous joys of the answering machine.

The only house where I can actually remember seeing a servant's hat still laid out was Mentmore, before its dissolution: the ratio of servants to those seated around the lunch table was almost on a par. Chequers is still copiously staffed but, oddly, by ladies of the armed services, who must be chosen on the criterion that they should not exceed the shoulder height of any visitor. Only the English could give their prime ministers a country house and not even provide a butler.

Being unpacked is therefore a fast-vanishing experience. It is one I always fight off because one can never find anything. My wife always carries her drawing pencils in old Roger & Gallet soap boxes, with the result that in the British Embassy in Paris she found them laid out in Paris. As all over the bathroom. The late Lady Harwell sensibly had the inside of her suitcases inscribed with "Do not unpack this case" in five different languages.

Having clothes laid out also brings its hazards. Lord Ramsey, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, is said to have found his surplice put out for him as a nightshirt. In the late 1960s, when the more avant-garde dandies wore karkans in the evening, I recall some curious incidents as domestics struggled through what would seem a wardrobe of "dresses"

looking for a dinner jacket. One dandy returned to his room to change to find a pair of socks and a blazer on the bed.

Table service is one matter, because we are used to it in restaurants, but incursions into the bedroom to draw curtains, put on lights and light fires, to open windows and run bath water, is another. We are no longer accustomed to it, and when this extends to seizing half one's wardrobe for the laundry, pressing or repairs, the result is widespread and a sense of being under siege. How extraordinary it was a norm of existence for the establishment classes, until as late as 1939.

Part of London now thrives on a small band of domestics for hire. Often a front door is swung back to reveal the same deferential face that one saw elsewhere the night before. My wife and I used to keep a lookout for one we designated "the drunken butler" ever since, many years ago, we glimpsed him at Lord Weidenfeld's falling backwards on to a sofa with the entire in his hands.

I have not seen any recent statistics on domestics, but I would guess that, contrary to what one would think, the number has fallen during the recession. Those households that have them are a rarefied few, and the gap between the lifestyle of the Royal Family and the greater houses must have widened dramatically. All this is reflective not only of declining incomes, but of a change in social attitude on both sides of the green baize door. The only time that a slight yearning crosses my mind is when the flow of conversation at a dinner party is interrupted because the host is also cook and butler.

For nearly everyone the idea of servants has become an embarrassing one. The thought context of previous centuries, when the word "family" included them, has gone. On the other hand their presence must have allowed the creative minds of an earlier age to work at full stretch. As I iron my shirts and press my trousers, I often think "Carlyle did not have to do this".

The author is director of the Victoria & Albert Museum.



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CONSENT AND THE LEVY

Mr Len Murray and the chairman of the TUC Employment Committee, Mr Bill Keys, have every reason to be pleased with themselves. They have done a deal with the Employment Secretary, Mr Tom King, in which he has agreed not to legislate to free individual trade unionists from their present obligation to pay the political levy unless they contract out of doing so. Whether those who have to pay the levy to a political party they do not support, and who fear the consequences to themselves of taking action not to do so, will be equally pleased is another matter. It is certainly questionable whether the principle of "Democracy in Trade Unions", the title of the Green Paper in which the idea of such legislation was first mooted a year ago, has been well served by Mr King's bargain.

The prospect raised in the Green Paper was whether the government should seek to change the law by replacing contracting out with contracting in. On three other propositions made in "Democracy in Trade Unions", the government is legislating in the Trade Union Bill which is now in its Committee stage in the House of Commons. Union executives, including voting general secretaries, will have to be directly elected by members at least once every five years. Strikes will have to be endorsed (within four weeks) by a secret ballot of members and if it is not, civil law immunity will be removed from the action. Finally, there will have to be a ballot of members every five years to obtain consent for funding a political party.

Members of unions which have been asked for a political levy, however, will still have to contract out. At the general election, the Conservative manifesto simply stated that the government would legislate against contracting out if it failed to obtain satisfactory undertakings from the TUC that arrangements would be made for the system of contracting out to work fairly and equitably. Mr King now, presumably, thinks he has secured such undertakings from Mr Murray and Mr Keys who have offered to ensure that a code of guidelines about the right to contract out is issued to trade union members. The deal is still to be ratified by the TUC general council, and the government's formal position is that it will still legislate if it finds that the voluntary arrangements do not work satisfactorily. But for the moment, the trade union Bill can go forward unimpeded by the controversy that would have been caused by legislation to replace contracting in with contracting out.

The wish to get the Bill through quickly is no doubt one of the government's reasons for compromising with the TUC

instead of legislating on contracting out. Another reason is the fear that legislation to require contracting in, which would put the Labour Party's political funding at risk, would in fairness have had to be matched by legislation to give shareholders greater control over company donations to the Conservative Party. Yet such counterbalancing legislation (which would have been necessary in fairness) would not have been much for the Tory Party to fear. A stampede of shareholders opposing financial help to the principal party espousing the cause of private industry would hardly be likely.

The question now is what the TUC's assurances and code of guidance will be worth in practice. The extent to which union members are inhibited by the need to contract out is indicated by the great disparity between the large number of trade unionists who vote for parties other than Labour compared with the number who use their right not to pay the political levy to the Labour Party. Most union members must already be well aware that they are entitled to deduct the political levy from their union dues and most of those who do not exercise the right when they would like to cannot simply be suffering from inertia.

Anyone with knowledge of trade union affairs is aware that there is great psychological pressure not to contract out. Non-conforming individuals do not want to have their cards marked by refusal to toe the union line; they fear that non-conformity will disqualify from union office and influence quite apart from the possible effect on their jobs.

Mr Murray and Mr Keys were reported as saying that the proposed guidance was in many ways merely a repetition of what the unions already carried out, and that of course is the trouble. There is no reason to doubt that the letter of the agreement with Mr King will be mostly observed but there is reason to doubt whether in spirit the guidelines will be worth very much.

The provision that union members would pay a political levy (in practice to the Labour Party) was established in the first Trade Union Act in 1913. At the time it made sense; the Labour Party was the party sent to Westminster by the unions and political funding was a necessary launching pad. But as Labour became one of the two principal contenders for power, claiming to stand for more than a narrow union interest, the case against contracting out strengthened. In 1927 the position was reversed to contracting in, which persisted until 1946 when the Attlee government again returned to the 1913 position. But one speech by a Labour member in the House of Commons on reversal is well worth recalling

today. Mr G. H. Walker, the MP for Rossendale said: "Speaking as a trade unionist, I say I do not care two hoots about the political levy one way or the other. This party to which I have the honour to belong can spin its own top and find its own finance without any political levy."

That is not a claim the Labour Party could make today. Its constituency membership and funding have declined with the passing years; its dependence on the dragoned funds of trade unionists has become virtually total. Mr Norman Tebbit, when he was Employment Secretary privately made no bones about his hope that by ballots on the levy (which we shall have) and individual contracting in (which we shall not) the demise of the Labour Party could be hastened, and its possible replacement by the SDP (alternating with the Conservatives like Democrats and Republicans in America) could be stimulated. That ambition arose from something more than a politician's wish to do down his opponents; it touched on the need to recreate a basic political consensus which is impossible unless the Labour Party changes.

The government can claim that, from the start, it has only threatened to legislate if the unions refused satisfactory concessions. The principal reason for the bargain struck is the government's belief that the "softly-softly" approach to union reform started by Mr James Prior has worked and should not be put at risk. It does not want to push the unions too hard at the beginning of a year in which standing firm on wage settlements (3 per cent in the public sector in cash terms) is economically vital. The trouble is that it risks losing the momentum of union reform.

Dealing with restrictions on wages (including by wage councils) would be a more sensible approach to wages policy now, and also of more help to employment since the unions are more concerned to raise the wage levels of those in work that to help provide work for those who lack it.

Some Tories fear that, if Labour lost a substantial element of its union funding the road would be open to the demand for the state funding of political parties, and that is a prospect they rightly reject. But there is little substance behind this argument. If, in a democracy, political parties cannot raise enough funds for survival without state subsidies, what claim do they have to be democratic parties? The question on contracting out is really a simple one. Would Labour survive as a viable political force, if the party had to rely on genuinely voluntary subscriptions? The kind of false funding which sustains it now is as voluntary as a Benevolence sought by a Stuart king.

SACRED AND PROFANE

Video nasties don't come any nastier. A naked long-haired boy with a girl's face is kneeling down and with a sharp knife stripping the skin from a helpless half-human figure hung like a butcher's carcass upside down from a tree. The boy is working almost tenderly, thrusting his calm face close to his victim, but the blood streams down to the ground, where a grotesquely diminutive lapdog eagerly licks it up. Titian's *Flaying of Marsyas*, perhaps the rarest and most wonderful of innumerable rare and wonderful paintings assembled in the Royal Academy's great Venetian exhibition, has a subject which is almost intolerably cruel, and conveys it with a most vehement ferocity.

It has been interesting to watch visitors to the exhibition (which has just three more weeks to run) shying away from the indecent life-sized spectacle, or nerving themselves to peer at it in perplexity. "They should have left it where it was!" one loudly declared: for 300 years the picture had hung almost unvisited in a Central European fastness almost as inaccessible and forbidding as Castle Dracula - whose master would certainly have found the work congenial.

The strength of this reaction is striking in an exhibition which, for all the Venetian's delight in all things voluptuous, has the usual Renaissance share of sacred and secular carnage. The source of the feeling lies in an uneasy sense that the artist very well saw how obscene the punishment was, yet somehow approved of it. The figures who rejoice or concur in the deed are unmistakably noble: stranger still, the face of the hamstring victim is wide-eyed, fully-conscious, composed, almost ecstatic like that of the god.

It is not easy for us to approve. In the original legend the satyr Marsyas was cheeky enough to boast that he could make better music on his rustic pipes than the god Apollo on his lyre. Apollo defeats him in a musical duel (using sharp practice, by some accounts), and takes a monstrous revenge. Reductive commentators explain the myth as symbolizing the triumph of culture over the primitive, as well as being a characteristic Greek warning against insolence towards the divine. Apollo's revenge is not fair, but the Greeks had no illusions about the capricious character of the forces that they represented as deities - even when the god is one whose predominant character is of brightness, nobility and wisdom. For us, however, the episode is an aberration, a skeleton in Apollo's cupboard.

There must be more to it. At the Royal Academy the printed and taped guides refer only cautiously to the possibility of a symbolic meaning, and therefore perhaps fail to give visitors as much help as they deserve. In particular they fail to mention Dante. But it is unlikely that Titian can have painted the picture or his Italian contemporaries read it without recalling a prominent passage in the *Divine Comedy* which is in some ways even more startling than the painting. The medieval mind thought in allegories as naturally as crossword compilers think in anagrams. By this means, the treasures of pagan knowledge could be brought under the wing of a jealous Church.

At one of the most solemn points of his vast poem, when he is nerving himself to embark on the representation of the inapprehensible landscape of Para-

dise, Dante makes an invocation, in proper epic form. But he makes it not to the Christian God (who might be presumed to know his way round the place better than any pagan deity who had never set his sights higher than Parnassus) but to Apollo. Of course, the invocation is to God through Apollo, so to speak (the poet even addresses him as "Father"), with a double significance. But it would be natural at such a moment to stress the aspects that the two had in common. It is astonishing that at the moment of making such an identification, Dante should bring out the skeleton in the cupboard:

*Come into my heart, and so breathe
As you did when you extracted
Marsyas
From the skin in which his limbs
were enclosed.*

No explanation of these strange lines is satisfactory which does not take full account both of the extreme physical violence of the act, and of the way the whole passage seems to merge it into the gentle process of divine guidance, inspiration or possession, which the poet is praying for. The image draws in several relevant ideas, but the strongest one is that the relationship between God and the artist, and by extension between God and man, is in some sense like a flaying. The cast of mind which could make such an association may seem very remote - as far as possible, from milk-and-water piety. Upside down and amazed, humiliated to the utmost degree, the shaggy satyr has come face to face with God, who is most tenderly and painfully stripping away the bestial side of him. Whether this reflection makes the actual masterpiece any less repulsive must be left to the spectator to decide.

Tory scrutiny of the BBC

From Lord Greenhill of Harrow
Sir, Labour Party critics of Mr John Gummer's dispute with the BBC will recall their own, not dissimilar, row with the corporation over the programme *Yesterday's Men* in the early seventies.
Most fair-minded persons thought their protests were then largely justified. Whilst the BBC never admitted error, I was able to observe some years later, as a governor of the BBC, that these protests had a considerable and beneficial effect on the management.
All political parties are entitled from time to time to challenge the programme makers.
Yours ever,
GREENHILL OF HARROW,
House of Lords,
February 15.

From Mr John V. C. Butcher
Sir, The letter which you published today (February 15) did not reveal that Sir Hugh Greene, its author, was Director General of the BBC from 1960 to 1968 - perhaps you assumed that all your readers remembered this!
Sir Hugh cites a 1962 instance when the minister then responsible for broadcasting threatened the BBC after a particular broadcast, but was (rightly) admonished by the then Prime Minister. But Sir Hugh is making a major blunder to assume that it follows that the chairman of the political party from whose ranks the Government is drawn is debarré from threatening the BBC if it broadcasts an attack on that party.
Applying Sir Hugh's logic, the BBC has unlimited scope to traduce the party in power (but not other parties) without its being able to complain to the Governors of the BBC, the press or, presumably, the courts.
Mr Gummer is not the minister responsible to Parliament for broadcasting and he has every right to raise hell if he wants to.
Yours truly,
JOHN BUTCHER,
7 Blenheim Close,
Wimslow Park,
Wimslow,
Cheshire,
February 15.

Request to Tate

From Mr R. Ashley P. Banks
Sir, I was particularly interested in your report (February 8) concerning the Tate Gallery possibly losing a bequest of 25 paintings (worth approximately £12m), from the widow of Clyfford Still because they are having great difficulty meeting her insistence that they are permanently exhibited in rooms that do not contain the works of other artists.
Once again this seems to highlight the chronic shortage of space that both London galleries and the older London-based museums are suffering.
At the same time there are many country houses, often denuded of their contents and in many cases with well proportioned rooms and in beautiful settings, that can be acquired for a fraction of the cost of any proposed extension to the existing London galleries.
I have often wondered whether any of the London galleries or museums have ever considered acquiring any of these houses which have sadly been neglected or destroyed over the last 40 years.
Yours etc,
R. ASHLEY P. BANKS,
Palace Farm House,
Witham-on-the-Hill,
Barnet,
Lincolnshire,
February 8.

Fate of Temple Bar

From Mrs Frances Perry
Sir, Could we not, please, put an end to this tedious debate about the future of Temple Bar? Hardly anybody comes to see it (I have lived all my life within a few hundred yards of it) and nobody seems to want it back in London.
As the Americans have appeared willing to subscribe a lot of money to restore or to move it, why do we not sell it to the Americans as we did the London Bridge and they could erect the bridge on the fringe of Central Park, New York, or on some other well chosen site where millions of people might see it?
Yours sincerely,
FRANCES PERRY,
Bulls Cross Cottage,
3 Bulls Cross,
Enfield,
Middlesex,
February 10.

Costs of housing

From Mr D.J. Lewis
Sir, The current debate on housing benefits emphasises not only the need to assist those who are in financial need for proper housing but even more the need to reduce the effective cost of housing so as to reduce the fundamental need for such benefits.
Your article today says that "no government... has dared tackle tax relief on mortgages...". To the extent that decisions are taken based on what is or what is not "politically acceptable" the perpetuation of distorted subsidies is morally unacceptable. Mortgage interest and rent payments should either both be subject to tax relief or neither. Therein lies one of the great intractable problems of housing in this country. May I propose the following on a bipartisan basis.
1. The phased abolition of tax relief on mortgages.
2. The phased de-control of residential rents but with continuation of security of tenure on the basis laid down for commercial leases which has operated successfully for 30 years.
The consequences would in due course be as follows:
1. A stabilisation or a fall in the value of houses and flats.
2. An increase in the supply of rented accommodation, both existing and new, which after initial adjustment (the reason for the phasing) would stabilise or reduce rental values of houses and flats.
3. An increase in the mobility of labour through the increased availability of rented accommodation.
4. A reduction in the pressure on the finances of Local Authorities who presently are virtually the only suppliers of rented accommodation.
5. An increase in the choice open to the public not all of whom wish to commit themselves to purchasing a house or a flat.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Troublesome time in countryside

From Mr N. Barber
Sir, My near neighbour, Lord Melchett, has started an interesting debate about farming and the countryside. He certainly has practised what he preaches at Courtyard Farm, but is perhaps short on experience of the public having access to the farm.
Like many other farmers in Norfolk we have Peddars Way running through the farm so for over 50 years, since my late father-in-law started farming here, the public, in large numbers, have been walking over our farm.
Just after the war he decided to clear a part of Peddars Way as it was so overgrown that it was becoming impassable. Having done this work he received a letter from the local council complaining that he had cut the hedges (rest assured they are still there!) and requesting him to make arrangements to restore it to its original condition.
He told me that in the letter he sent in reply he had agreed to do this provided that the council would supply him with 1,000 rats and 400 rabbits to enable him to complete the task required of him. Nothing further was heard from them.
While we lived at the Magazine Farm, on Peddars Way, we came to accept the fact that people would turn their Minis around on the tennis court and picnic on our lawn and be rude if you accused them of bad manners. Others - complete strangers - we saw and talked with while they were on holiday regularly each year.
Since then Peddars Way has been designated as a long-distance foot-

path. On several occasions several hundred motor bikes have gone down this "footpath" and when one of my neighbours pointed out that not only were they not on Peddars Way but on private land which had been laid down to grass at great expense for a specific purpose and which they were cutting up seriously, he was threatened with physical violence.
So you see, Sir, there is another side to the coin and if you check up carefully in Arthur Young's *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Norfolk*, published in 1804, which gives the previous cropping of the fields on my farm and Summerfield next door, the acreages have mostly remained the same.
Similarly, if you consult maps of that period the only hedges that have been removed in recent years are where small paddocks were required for the working horses and their foals, the tractor having replaced them.
The farmers have to make a living - not easy in these times; the public want cheap food and dislike subsidies, probably just as much as the farmers. The conservationists resist change which is necessary for increased efficiency, which is not the same as increased production. What nobody has done is to answer the question - who pays?
Yours faithfully,
N. BARBER,
Newcome-Baker Farms Ltd.,
Wethered Manor,
Sedgeford,
Hunstanton,
Norfolk,
February 14.

Fears realized at Halvergate marshes

From Lord Buxton and Lord Onslow
Sir, In letters to *The Times* two years ago we questioned the use of public money first to drain key areas of the Norfolk Broads, and then to pay people not to drain, and wrote to farmers and landowners, worried about the growing unpopularity of agriculture with the public.
In debates in Parliament we warned that the Wildlife and Countryside Act, which the Government claimed would solve such problems, "will turn out to be bad legislation... it will not work".
Current developments at Halvergate marshes in Broadland are now proving our worst fears to have been well founded, despite an agreement in 1982, between farming and conservation interests (including the then Agriculture Minister, Lord Ffrench, and the then Environment Minister, Tom King).
In the past few weeks at least four instances have come to light in which farmers have notified the Broads Authority of their intention to plough up and convert to cereals a substantial part of Halvergate

marshes, the largest remaining block of open marsh grazing landscape in England. We gave warning of this very prospect.
With 5,000 acres at risk, compensation payments for conservation under the Wildlife and Countryside Act arrangements might cost the public purse ultimately as much as £1m a year, index-linked. Clearly this is an unthinkable burden for the conservation authorities.
The Broads are a symbol for the wider countryside and a test of the Government's commitment to the public and to conservation and immediate steps should be taken to avoid conflicts of this kind. This can only be done by altering fundamentally the relationship between agriculture and environmental policy, so that farmers are encouraged financially to build conservation priorities into their farm planning and investment at the earliest stage.
We are, Sir, yours faithfully,
BUXTON,
ONSLow,
House of Lords,
February 15.

Peace studies

From the Headmaster of the United World College of the Atlantic
Sir, I wish people would stop using peace studies as a political football, and talking as if they, and they alone, were for peace. Now Miss Hilary Lipkin (February 6) writes of "Teachers for Peace, a group within CND".
So what is everyone else supposed to be - "Teachers for War"? Nor does the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament have a monopoly of concern for nuclear disarmament. Label snatching is not argument. And the right to an equal service to the cause of peace when they condemn peace studies out of hand.
At Atlantic College we have a peace studies course which is attracting attention in this controversy. By studying seriously the complex and terrifying problems of peace and war, we aim to develop our own understanding, and in a small way the understanding between the 60 countries from which our students come. Our views

are as diverse as our backgrounds. I personally, with many others, am a multilateralist. Others are unilateralist (though our international students often find the British obsession with the British bomb a bit parochial). We can reach no understanding if we do not study together.
As Lester Pearson, one of the founding fathers of the United World Colleges movement, said in his Nobel Peace Prize lecture in 1957, "How can there be peace without people understanding each other, and how can this be if they don't know each other?"
In 1984, of all years, we should surely remember the power of the manipulators the important words like Peace.
Yours faithfully,
A. C. STUART, Headmaster,
United World College of the Atlantic,
St Donat's Castle,
Llantwit Major,
South Glamorgan,
February 7.

Korean initiative

From Dr James Cotton
Sir, Mr Foster-Carter's response (February 14) to your considered leader (January 18) is a vivid illustration of the difference between the truth and the whole truth. How could the Republic of Korea be expected to come to any agreement with the perpetrators of what might be termed "Rangoon diplomacy" without some other power standing as guarantor for the latter's good conduct? The only such guarantor could be China.
The intervention of Chinese troops in 1950 kept the Pyongyang regime alive. Moreover repeated recent contacts at the highest level with Beijing, including a secret visit by Kim Jong Il (Kim Il Sung's son and chosen successor) to China in June, 1983, and talks in Dalian between Kim Il Sung and Deng

Xiaoping following the October outrage in Burma, indicate that if any power has influence there it is China.
On recent visits to the United States and Japan, Chinese leaders have discussed the Korea issue with both governments, whereas there is no sign of any similar Soviet initiatives. Indeed, the Soviets have taken pains to point out (in 1982) that much of North Korea's industrial capacity is crucially dependent upon Soviet assistance, thereby undermining Pyongyang's claims to self-sufficiency, long touted as the policy and ideological foundation of the regime and a lesson to the non-aligned world.
Yours faithfully,
JAMES COTTON,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
Politics Department,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
February 15.

Lack of influence by the Whips

From Sir Philip Holland, MP for Gillingham (Conservative) and Sir Kenneth Lewis, MP for Stamford and Spalding (Conservative)
Sir, It is to be regretted that, in spite of all the clear and unequivocal statements made in the procedural debates in 1979, Sarah Hogg (feature, February 9) seeks to perpetuate the myth that the Government Whips exert a considerable influence on the selection of members for departmental select committees.
The fact is that whilst the Whips are responsible for appointments to the older select committees like the PAC (Public Accounts Committee) and the Procedural Committee, the Committee of Selection has exercised total discretion in nominating Conservative members for the departmental select committees ever since their inception.
In this Parliament and the last the Conservative selection was made only from those who sent a written application to the Committee of Selection. Additions suggested by any other source were not accepted. Four of the senior Privy Counsellors named by Sarah Hogg could not be considered for selection since they did not apply to the committee.
If Sarah Hogg would take the trouble to look at the membership of the 14 select committees she will find a fair proportion of experienced backbench members who can in no way be described as a Whips Office first choice.
Yours truly,
PHILIP HOLLAND,
KENNETH LEWIS,
House of Commons,
February 13.

Telephone tapping

From Dr Andrew Drzemczewski
Sir, In today's article on telephone tapping (February 16) Bryan Stanley mentioned that the Post Office Engineering Union has ensured that the European Human Rights Court is aware of the POEU's repeated efforts to promote change in the law. This the POEU has done by successfully invoking in the *Malone* case a little-noticed change in the rules of court.
Rule 37(2) provides a limited possibility of "third party" intervention. Having accepted that the POEU is a "concerned" party, the court's president, "in the interest of the proper administration of justice", granted the POEU leave to submit comments back in November, 1983.
The POEU did so in January, having obtained advice and assistance from Interights and Justice, two London-based human-rights organisations. This is the first time in the court's history that a formal "third party" intervention has been successfully invoked.
An interesting point might be worth making with respect to the *Malone* case (oral hearings on Monday): On the assumption that the court finds a violation of the Convention, legislative or other governmental action may not be forthcoming for several years. In these circumstances, do not the present POEU legislative proposals make sense?
Yours faithfully,
ANDREW DRZEMCZEWSKI,
The Polytechnic of North London,
Department of Law,
Ladbroke House,
Highbury Grove, N5,
February 16.

A breath of India

From Dr G. H. W. Rylands
Sir, How diverted E. M. Forster would have been with Ferdinand Mount's tirade (feature, February 13) and would surely have characterised in a novel the young, clever, so superior despot.
Let there be sequels. Spenser's chivalry, Henry James and the English Upper Classes - are not these "pastic"? Some years ago Kingsley Amis exposed the bogus in Keats's "Ode to a Nightingale", and Auden concluded that Tennyson had no brains. More rats by Pussy Cat among the bourgeois moulting pigeons!
I am unashamedly at one with the vast majority who admire and intensely enjoy the *Quarter*, both in print and presentation.
Yours etc,
G. H. W. RYLANDS,
King's College,
Cambridge,
February 14.

Safety precaution

From Mr M. G. R. Stamford
Sir, In view of the claim by the British Telecommunications Unions Committee in their advertisement on page 6 of *The Times* of February 16 that "British Telecom provides the backbone to our defence communications systems" should not unions be banned from British Telecom on security grounds?
Yours faithfully,
M. G. R. STAMFORD,
14a Pelham Road,
Grimsby,
South Humberside,
February 16.

Love locked out

From Mr Antony R. Kench
Sir, I was interested to receive a Valentine card which on opening proved to be from "Expresspost: the Royal Mail's same-day courier service - ring now and find out just how fast and efficient Expresspost is".
It arrived on February 15.
Yours faithfully,
ANTONY R. KENCH,
Geisco Limited,
Geisco House,
25-29 High Street,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey,
February 15.

[illegible]

12,13
Travel: Five weekends away from it all, from the hills of Flintshire to the twin towns of Buda and Pest

14,15
Travel: Trekking in the Andes, a taste of the Algarve; Values on wallpaper with a history; Eating Out and Drink

THE TIMES Saturday

16,17
In the Garden; Spring bulbs; Review of videos; Critics' Choice of Dance, Music, Opera, Theatre, Films and Galleries

19,20
Family Life; Bridge; Chess; Prize crossword; The Week Ahead; Steam railways; Collecting; At home: DIY darkroom

18 - 24 FEBRUARY 1984 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS



Sir William Burrell (left) was the 'millionaire magpie' who amassed the most far-reaching art collection in Britain. How did he do it? Peter Waymark reports

Collecting down to a fine art

The urge to collect, whether it be matchboxes, labels or old masters, is something that is implanted in the genes, usually surfaces at an early age and, once there, is almost impossible to shake off.

In the 1870s a 15-year-old boy was given some pocket money by his father to spend on something useful, like a cricket bat. To the horror of his stern and unimaginative parent, he came back with a painting. This proved to be no passing fancy, for he was still buying works of art up to his death more than 80 years later.

The boy was William Burrell, eventually to be Sir William, who made his fortune as a shipowner in Glasgow and decided to spend a considerable part of it on what is probably the largest, certainly the widest-ranging, art collection ever assembled in Britain. Burrell may have been unique in the size and scope of his collection but not in the way he put it together. Much of the story of art collecting in this country over the past 100 years can be told by reference to him. He is a text-book to be marked and digested by succeeding generations.

The Burrell collection would not have been possible without money, but that is by no means the whole story. Burrell was a brilliant businessman, and he carried his business acumen over into his dealings in the world of art. He took over the management of the family firm with his brother in 1885. The secret of their success was a flair for reading the market. They bought their ships during a recession, when they could get them for the lowest prices; then, when the economy revived, they were all set to attract cargoes and able to undercut their rivals.

The company would enjoy several years of profitable trading, sell the ships while the boom was still on and bid its

time until the next recession, when the cycle would start all over again. It took nerve, for economic ebbs and flows are never entirely predictable; but Burrell guessed right in the 1890s and again in the early years of this century, and he made a final killing during the First World War.

He invested his share of the proceeds shrewdly and from then on devoted his life to buying art, applying the same sort of principles to his new enterprise as he had to shipping. As with the ships, so with art treasures, Burrell bought cheap. He was constantly on the lookout for a bargain. He would "circle round" a potential acquisition so as not to reveal his interest to rival bidders and risk raising the price.

He would haggle and seek second opinions. He would let something go rather than pay what he considered was too much. Sometimes he missed outstanding pieces because he was quibbling over a few hundred pounds that he could well afford; on the other hand, he was rarely fooled.

As with his ships, Burrell was able to buy during periods of depression, when prices had fallen. He bought between the wars and just after the Second World War, when big collections were being broken up and there were a lot of works on the market. He also had a nose for buying things before it was fashionable to collect them.

The Burrell collection contains 22 paintings by Degas. The most expensive, a picture of ballet dancers called "The Rehearsal", cost Burrell a mere £6,500. That was in 1926 when Degas was not yet a name to conjure with. Today it could fetch £3m. Other Degas pictures that Burrell paid peanuts for are now worth £1m to £1,500,000 each, as is his Cézanne, "Le Château de Médan", acquired in 1937 for £3,500.

There are striking examples



Three Burrell treasures: The life-size Chinese stoneware figure of a lohan, or disciple of Buddha, dates from 1484 and is glazed in green, cream and amber; the Temple Pyx (top right) is a twelfth-century bronze of three sleeping soldiers; and the Nativity (bottom right) is a German limewood sculpture c 1500

in other areas, too. A twelfth-century French stained-glass panel depicting the prophet Jeremiah was snapped up by Burrell for £114. It could now fetch £250,000. A Ming ewer, one of several pieces of Chinese porcelain he bought after the Second World War, cost him £85; recently a similar piece was valued at between £200,000 and £250,000.

Burrell undoubtedly conformed to the music-hall caricature of the mean Scotsman. When a salesman arrived with a new refrigerator, the great collector immediately started talking about discounts, 25 per cent off here, another 10 per cent there. It may have been an unattractive side to his character, but it did enable him to compete with the great American collectors, Frick, Mellon, Morgan and Hearst, with only a fraction of their outlay.

The Burrell collection contains 8,000 items and today could be worth as much as £100m. His average expenditure on new acquisitions, between 1911 and 1957 was £30,000 a year; and the most he paid for a single item was £14,500 for a "Portrait of a Gentleman", attributed to Franz Hals, in 1948.

Burrell has been called a "millionaire magpie". The first word may be accurate but the second is not. He was no random collector but a man who systematically built in

areas which appealed to him. His taste extended from the ancient civilizations of the Middle East, Greece and China to Rodin and Cézanne.

He had little academic knowledge of art, but he knew what he liked and that was what he bought. According to Dr Richard Marks, keeper of the Burrell collection, "he had a genuine love for objects, even if he did not always know very much about them". According to the late Lord Clark, "he was not simply an amasser, he was an aesthete".

A child of the mid-Victorian era, Burrell did not die until 1958. No one in Britain during his lifetime, or since, has been able to touch him as a collector. Not even Americans of far greater wealth, such as J. Paul Getty, have covered so wide a field. Other collections may have better individual pieces, but few are so catholic in their scope.

If Burrell was out on his own, he was by no means the only important collector in Glasgow in his time, which reflects the money made in that city from business and commerce. More recently, however, there have been remarkably few native collectors of any significance, and some of the largest collections have been the work of outsiders.

Prominent among these was Count Anton Seilern. Though born in England, of an American mother and Austrian father, he studied art in Vienna and lived there until Hitler annexed Austria in 1938. He settled in London, in a large house in Princes Gate, Kensington, and became, according to an obituary tribute in *The Times* by the then Sir Anthony Blunt, "probably the greatest European collector of old masters in the post-war period".

Seilern's particular interest was Flemish art; he acquired 33 paintings and 22 drawings by Rubens alone. But he also ranged widely over the Italians, including Titian, Tintoretto, Michelangelo and Leonardo, had a large group of drawings by Rembrandt, and commissioned paintings from his friend Kokoschka.

Mr Richard Camber, head of the works of art departments at Sotheby's, draws a parallel between Seilern and Burrell in that the former also had a nose for works which would later become valuable. "Like all collectors he enjoyed a bargain and hoped to get things for as little as possible, though he was prepared to spend 'reasonable sums' if this would enhance the collection as a whole."

Seilern, who died in 1978, left his collection, which has been valued at up to £50m, to the Courtauld Institute of the University of London, which already has Samuel Courtauld's fine collection of French impressionist and post-impressionist paintings.



Hutton Castle is a derelict ruin because after Burrell's death no one was prepared to buy and maintain it.

A typical small specialist English collector is Denis Mahon, who used his knowledge as an art historian to form an exquisite collection of paintings from seventeenth-century Italy. Again he was able to do so because he had become an expert in a field which was relatively unexplored.

Robert (later Sir Robert) Sainsbury, grandson of the founder of the grocery chain, started collecting, mainly sculptures, when he came down from Cambridge in 1927. A small green Henry Moore of mother and child helped to set him on his way and he collected other contemporaries, including Arp, Bacon, Giacometti and Picasso, as well as primitive art and antiquities.

Like Burrell and Seilern, Sir Robert has made his collection publicly available: it is housed in the purpose-designed Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts at the University of East Anglia. The 580 items, put together over 40 years, were the result of what Sir Robert has called "a personal and wholly intuitive search".

He added, in words that could easily have been used by Burrell: "I bought them because they pleased me emotionally. Their appeal was gut reaction. Later, as I gained knowledge, I came to love them, but I am not a scholar".

A few years before his death Count Seilern claimed that the age of the private collector, as distinct from the public benefactor, was at an end. Certainly the Rubens pictures and the other old masters of his time are much harder to come by now, partly because so many are in public galleries.

What the budding collector of today must do is to go back to the lesson of Burrell. He must, of course, have money, but just as important, he must have Burrell's business shrewdness and eye for a bargain. And, above all, he must find and become knowledgeable about, some hitherto unexploited and therefore still inexpensive, field.

As Richard Camber points out: "There is still a considerable amount of material on the market waiting for someone with the ability to sort through it and pick out the gems. One area is small-scale antiquities, such as Roman and Egyptian bronzes; another is old-master drawings."

"It is true that prices of works of art have soared, but there are still individuals with considerable wealth, and given the business flair and the motivation, there is no reason why another Burrell should not emerge."

A profile of Sir William Burrell, in *Search of Xanadu*, is being shown on Channel 4 on Feb 25 (8.30-9.30 pm).

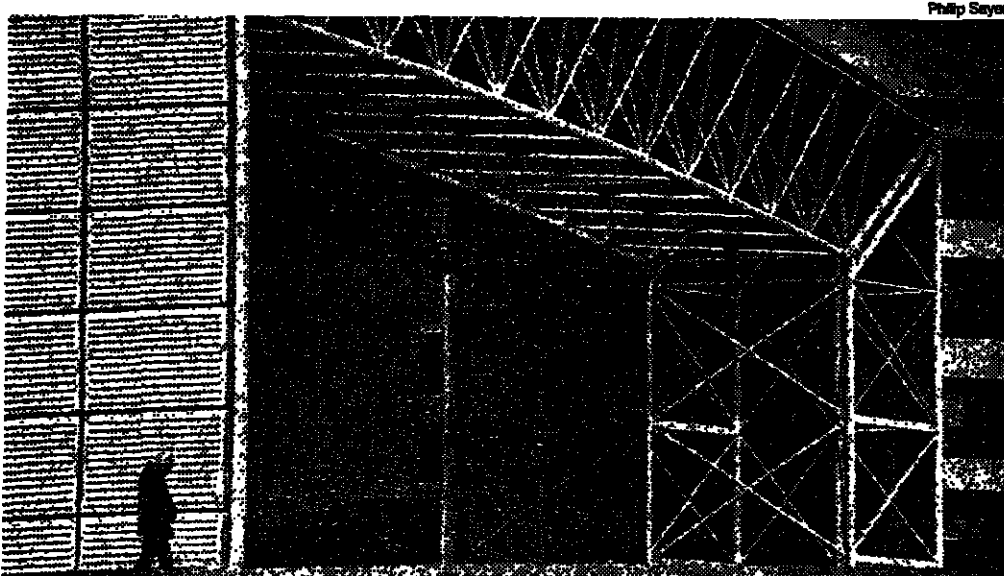
**Next week
The high-rollers
in casinos**

In pursuit of the priceless

The Burrell Collection, Pollok Country Park, Glasgow (041 649 7151). Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 2-5 pm (closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day). Admission free.

Courtauld Institute Galleries, Woburn Square, London WC1 (580 1015). Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 2-5 pm (closed on bank holidays). Admission 50p, students, children and pensioners half price. The French impressionist collection is on loan in Japan and will not be back in the gallery until September.

The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts (pictured right), University of East Anglia, Norwich, Norfolk (0603 56080). Tues-Sun noon-5 pm (closed Mon and during university closure at Christmas and Easter). Admission 50p, students and pensioners half price.



William Ward manuscript after George Garrard: Whitbread collection



Samuel Whitbread II

Patriotism and patronage

Samuel Whitbread II, born in 1764, nearly a century before Sir William Burrell, successfully carried on the brewery business founded by his father. But his greater claim to attention was as a politician and as a patron and collector of the arts.

During the years between the outbreak of the French Revolution and the battle of Waterloo, he was a maverick Whig opposition MP who consistently

espoused radical causes: the abolition of the slave trade, the establishment of universal education, a minimum wage for agricultural labourers and reform of the poor law. For all this he was a conservative at heart and believed that the best way to protect the interests of the landed classes was to ease the discontent of the poor through education and philanthropy. But he was vilified by the Tories, distrusted by his Whig colleagues.

After his death by suicide in 1815 the editor of *The Times* called him "England's greatest and most useful citizen", and *The Pilot* wrote that he was "the most genuine patriot of our time - one of the first for all time".

Patriotism was very much behind Whitbread's involvement in the arts. He was one of the first Englishmen to collect and encourage British art exclusively, believing that his artistic activities might help to further his social and political goals. He offered philanthropic help to several artists and their families, including the painter George Garrard and the engraver S. W. Reynolds, who were housed by him at Southill Park, the Whitbread family seat in Bedfordshire. He also commissioned works by leading

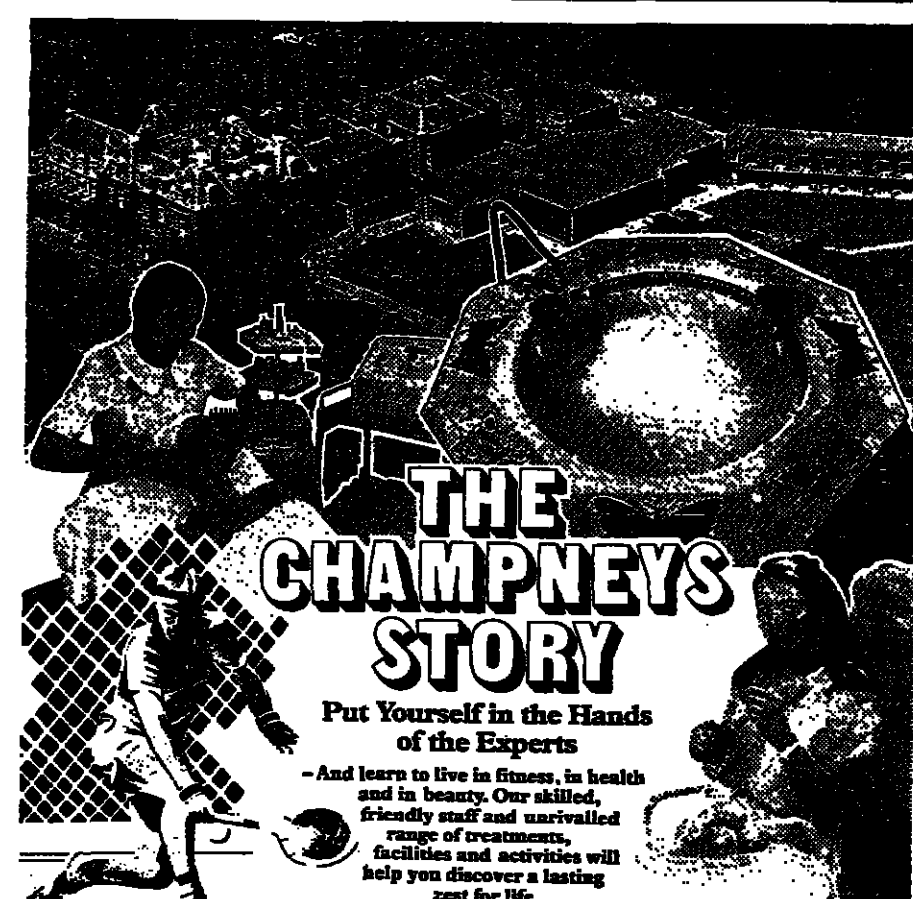


City scene: 'View from the East End of the brewery' (1792)

contemporary artists, including John Hoppner, John Opie, James Northcote and Sir David Wilkie, and among his acquisitions were works by Sir Joshua Reynolds, Gainsborough and Romney.

Between 1810 and 1812 he organized the rebuilding of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, which had been destroyed by fire, at the invitation of the playwright, Richard Brinsley Sheridan.

Paintings, Politics and Porter: Samuel Whitbread and British Art, opens at the Museum of London on Tuesday. It covers the various facets of his life and includes a selection from his art collection, which has been preserved at Southill Park. The majority of the paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture have not been seen by the public before. Museum of London, London Wall EC2 (600 3699). Tues-Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun 2-6 pm. Admission free. Until Apr 29.



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VALUES

Beryl Downing on choosing wallpaper to match the period of your house

The hanging debate takes an historical turn



Twenty years ago people used to "do up" their houses. Now they restore them. The aim is not to modernize but to achieve the exact period flavour of the building, and specialist dealers offer all sorts of architectural embellishments, from Victorian stained glass to complete runs of Georgian panelling. Advice and appropriate references are abundant - until you start looking for wallpaper.

An exhibition called "Wallpaper: Four Centuries of Design" at the Victoria and Albert Museum until April 29 goes a little way towards setting the seeker after accuracy on the right path. But only a little way. The museum has not allowed Jean Hamilton, who looks after the wallpaper collection, nearly enough space to make anything but a historical point.

That she does superbly. Choosing only 80 examples from a collection of 10,000 pieces, she shows early seventeenth-century woodblock designs overprinted on documents used for lining trunks; embossed leather panels alternating with flock; the brilliant "Scheele's green", which gave off arsenical vapours when it became damp; the curious and unidentified code used for the taxation stamps (1d a square yard) imposed in 1712; many fragments from historic buildings; and a fascinating Cowtan order-book showing samples for redecorating Stratfield Saye in the original red-flock paper chosen for the Duke of Wellington.

Cowtan & Sons were among the few interior decorators to receive a royal warrant. Many of their original log books were bought in 1940 by Albert Percival Cole, founder of Coles of Mortimer Street, who still own them.

For today's renovators, however, there is really not enough reference to pinpoint period characteristics. They have to do their own research for this at the three major producers of historic papers: Coles, Watts and Sanderson.

At Jole Perry, their factory in north London, Coles are now the only company in the world still hand-printing wallpapers with the original pear-wood blocks, some made as early as 1680, many around the mid-eighteenth century and even more in Victoria's reign.

There are about 3,000 blocks to choose from, and Christopher Cole, grandson of the founder, who collects historic wallpaper fragments, has no

difficulty in finding authentic designs in his archives. The company has provided paper for the Houses of Parliament, and for every National Trust house in the country; and when Cecil Beaton was designing *My Fair Lady* Coles were able to produce original 1890 blocks to create exactly the right period atmosphere.

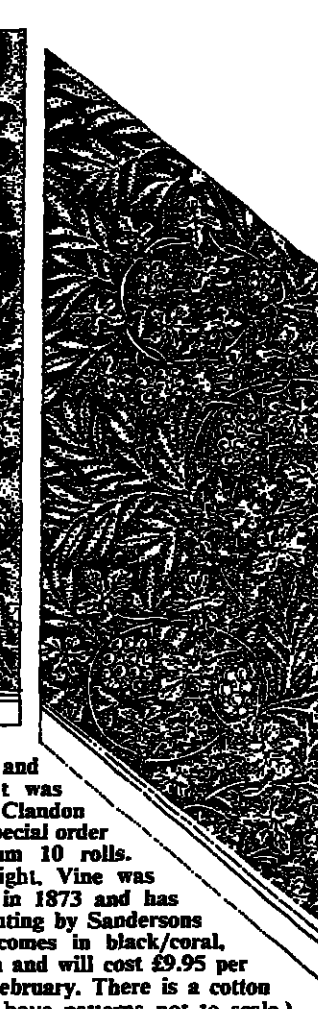
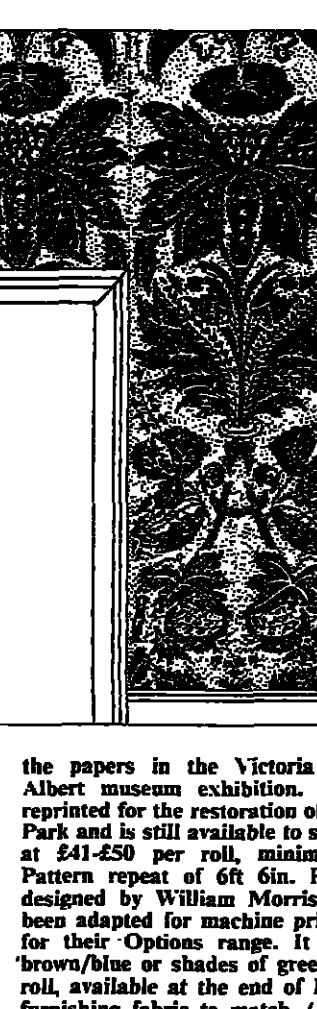
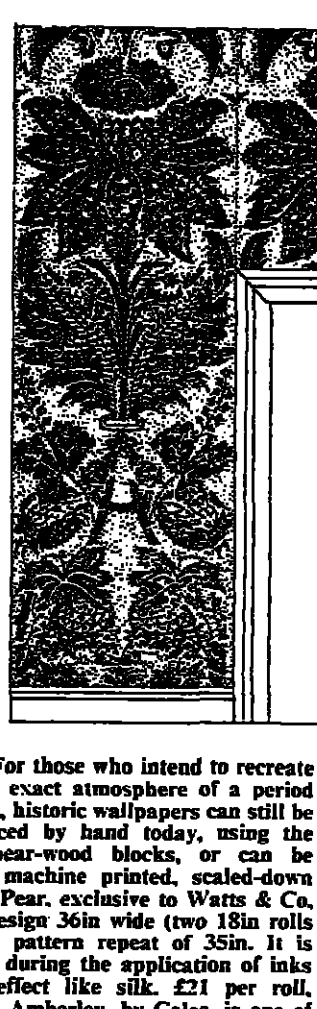
They are also producing a series of historic designs for the Victoria and Albert Museum, available at the museum shop or from Coles at about £60 per roll. Or you can have "anything made in any colour you like if you order a minimum of 10 rolls. Their showrooms are at 18 Mortimer Street, London W1 (01-580 1066).

Perrys also print for Watts & Co, 7 Tufnell Street, London W1 (01-222 7169). This company was founded in 1868 by three architects who wanted to produce textiles, metalwork and wallpapers created specifically to complement their designs for houses built for individual clients. Bodley, Thomas Garner and George Gilbert Scott II (son of Sir George Scott) who designed the Albert Memorial) specialized in the restoration of seventeenth and eighteenth-century grand houses.

All three were distinguished graphic designers and their papers were carefully documented. There is now a small range of 24 original designs, exclusive to Watts, including damask designs of the eighteenth century and the flowing flowers and foliage of J. E. Bodley, one of the three founders, who was a direct influence on William Morris. An original Bodley design, reproduced today from the same blocks, is, says Watts, "like having an original Wren on your walls. It is one of the few art forms everyone can have as decoration".

Being created for individual rooms and lighting, Watts's papers were never produced in a colour range. But now any of the designs can be produced in the colours of the client's choice (again in minimum orders of 10 rolls). Some have been reproduced in screen print at about £18.40 a roll. Hand-blocked papers are from £25.30 a roll.

Sandersons are among the few mass producers of wallpaper who bother to include authentic designs in their ranges. They own the entire collection of original William Morris blocks, and their Morris & Co collection offers 75 hand-printed designs, including

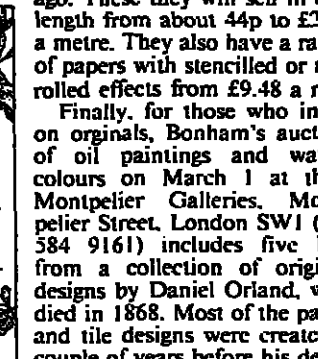


For those who intend to recreate the exact atmosphere of a period house, historic wallpapers can still be reproduced by hand today, using the original pear-wood blocks, or can be obtained in machine printed, scaled-down versions. Left: Pear, exclusive to Watts & Co, is a very large design 36in wide (two 18in rolls per design) with a pattern repeat of 35in. It is washed and scrubbed during the application of inks and this achieves an effect like silk. £21 per roll, minimum 20 rolls. Centre: Amberley, by Coles, is one of

the papers in the Victoria and Albert Museum exhibition. It was reprinted for the restoration of Clarendon Park and is still available to special order at £41-£50 per roll, minimum 10 rolls. Pattern repeat of 6ft 6in. Right: Vine was designed by William Morris in 1873 and has been adapted for machine printing by Sandersons for their Options range. It comes in black/coral, brown/blue or shades of green and will cost £9.95 per roll, available at the end of February. There is a cotton furnishing fabric to match. (Above patterns not to scale.)

produced early this century to a poppy design by Walter Crane. "Summers Past", featuring herbaceous flowers on a polka-dot ground, both £8.95 a roll in the Options range and "Trellis", a 1920s floral trellis at £7.20 in the Classics range, and several papers have coordinated

ing fabrics. For stockists telephone 01-636 7800. Hill & Knowles, 133 Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2PN (01-848 4010) are a much younger company who started producing their own range of traditionally styled, hand-printed borders about five years ago. These will sell in any length from about 44p to £2.45 a metre. They also have a range of papers with stencilled or ragged effects from £9.48 a roll.



Left, one of Daniel Orland's original designs (c 1866) to be sold at Bonhams on March 1. Centre, Cornfield and right, Flores, both documented Edwardian designs in Sanderson's Options range, available at the end of February. Coordinating patterned and plain fabrics available.

There is also a new Options range by Sanderson which includes several papers and fabrics based on original nineteenth and early-twentieth-century drawings and documents. Those with Victorian and Edwardian houses might care to look at "Cornfield", first

drawings by J.M. Field

Finally, for those who insist on originals, Bonham's auction of oil paintings and watercolours on March 1 at their Montpelier Galleries, Montpelier Street, London SW1 (01-584 9161) includes five lots from a collection of original designs by Daniel Orland, who died in 1868. Most of the paper and designs were created a couple of years before his death and anticipate the arts and crafts movement. There are five groups and the expected price of each is £300 to £500.

SHOPFRONT

Face up to food

Ladies who lunch in Cadogan Street will find an extra temptation on the menu this spring - a make-up lesson to help banish the effects of winter and face up to the sun. Joan Price, whose Face Place is at 33 Cadogan Street, London SW3, finds that many women don't like to ask for a make-up from a young and glamorous beautician in a store for fear of being "overdone". So she is offering "Lunches with Make-Up" so that they can learn ways to make the best of their skin, whatever age it may be, and can choose coordinating products without being tied to one brand. Each party will be of 20 people and will include a quiche and salad lunch, a video showing make-up techniques, personal make-up advice and the opportunity to experiment with a variety of products. Lunches will be between 11.30am and 2.45pm on Tuesdays, beginning on March 13 and will cost £12 per head. For more information ring 01-589 9062.



On the boil

High, white and handsome is the latest kettle from Russell Hobbs (above). Made in a heat-resistant plastic called Kernalit it has a removable lid or can be filled through the spout, will boil as little as one cup of water or up to 1.5 litres and will switch off automatically if it is about to boil dry. I have used one for three months and find it well-balanced, efficient and easy to keep clean. About £20 from Asda and Rumbelow's.

Office offer

A chance for young designers to make their mark upon the office of the future is offered by the furniture manufacturers Gordon Russell. The first prize will be £25,000 plus royalties when the design is in production. The requirement is for a single piece or group of furniture to fit in a room 6.2m by 4.3m providing a working position for one, storage and meeting facilities for up to six people. The closing date is March 30. The award is organized in association with The Design Centre and The Architectural Review. Details from the Awards Manager, Design Centre, 28 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4SU.

DRINK

Sensible extracts from a mass of snobbish paraphernalia

Sensible wine drinkers realized long ago that the only real essentials are a corkscrew and glass, and most of us have often managed to make do without even those. Yet somehow the image persists that in order to appreciate wine to the full, you must have several well-stocked cupboards of rare and expensive equipment as well as a well-stocked cellar.

The worst sort of wine snob always seems to indulge in these pricey items, of which the most ridiculous example yet is something called the Ultimate Decanting Cradle, a fancy brass contraption that will set you back a cool £285 from Richard Kihl, 164 Regent's Park Road, London NW1.

At the other end of the price scale is the stylish Screwpull, the latest in a long line of modern corkscrews designed to extract cork from bottle as effortlessly as possible and by far the most ingenious. It was invented by Herbert Allen, a Texan wine buff and former head of an engineering firm, and even the most traditional wine drinkers rave about its merits. With most corkscrews you have to exert considerable pressure to pull the cork out; all you have to do with this one is to go on twisting it and the cork is drawn slowly and silently from the bottle. The original Screwpull came with a somewhat pretentious stand (Adams, Sole Bay Brewery, Southwold, Suffolk, £7.50; Berry Bros & Rudd, 3 St James's Street, London SW1, £7.75). I much prefer the new, collapsible Pocket Screwpull complete with penknife (Adams, £7.50; Justerini & Brooks, 61 St James's Street, London SW1, £7); it has an extra-thick Teflon coating

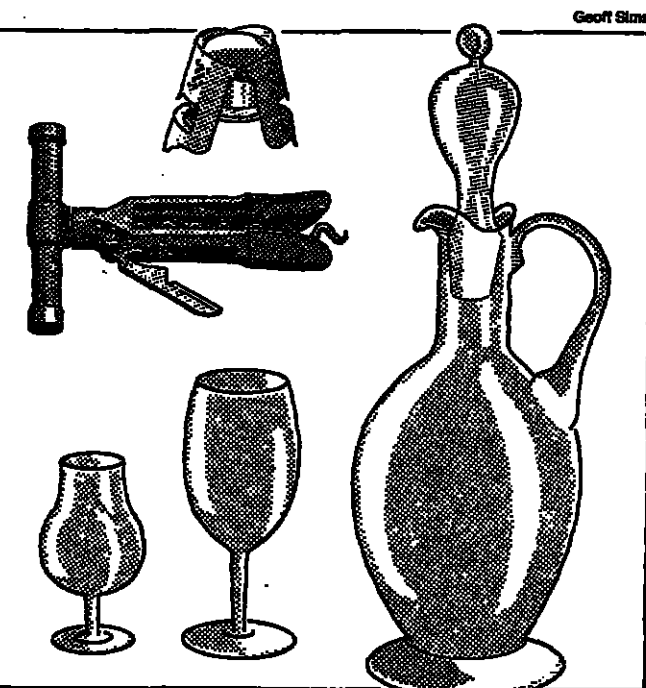
impressive bronze shank, steel thread and ebony handle, complete with a handy bristle brush (useful for wiping away bits of cork and debris before you start pouring) is marginally more expensive at £210 from Richard Kihl, 164 Regent's Park Road, London NW1.

At the other end of the price scale is the stylish Screwpull, the latest in a long line of modern corkscrews designed to extract cork from bottle as effortlessly as possible and by far the most ingenious. It was invented by Herbert Allen, a Texan wine buff and former head of an engineering firm, and even the most traditional wine drinkers rave about its merits. With most corkscrews you have to exert considerable pressure to pull the cork out; all you have to do with this one is to go on twisting it and the cork is drawn slowly and silently from the bottle. The original Screwpull came with a somewhat pretentious stand (Adams, Sole Bay Brewery, Southwold, Suffolk, £7.50; Berry Bros & Rudd, 3 St James's Street, London SW1, £7.75). I much prefer the new, collapsible Pocket Screwpull complete with penknife (Adams, £7.50; Justerini & Brooks, 61 St James's Street, London SW1, £7); it has an extra-thick Teflon coating

and an even better design. Good glassware is getting increasingly easy to buy. The Wine Society has a handsome range: its large 8oz wine glass (£12 for six) and tall champagne flute (£13 for six) are among my favourites. (Wine Society, Funnells Wood Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire). Berry Bros also have a well-designed if rather more sturdy-looking selection, with their brandy or liqueur glass the star of the show (all glasses £2.55 each). Even more magnificent is Berry's splendid magnum claret jug decanter (£19.90 for the magnum size, £16 for the bottle size).

For basic Paris goblets and tulip-shaped glasses Habitat have some of the cheapest sets available at just 99p and £2.75 respectively for three. But the most elegant glassware available is the fine, thin Classic range of Bavarian glass discovered by Harry Waugh, a discerning wine man; it looks like the best Baccarat but at a fraction of the cost.

The most beautiful glasses in the range and worth every penny are the slim 6oz champagne flute and the generous 9oz wine goblet. The former cost £26.70 for six from Annabel's Wine Cellars, 66



at least a day provided you put the bottle in the fridge (£1.75 from Berry Bros, £1.50 from the Wine Society).

Finally, if you are one of those people who is always plagued by tight champagne corks, invest in a pair of champagne pliers (Adams, £3, Richard Kihl, £5.50).

Proof that you don't have to spend a fortune to get a useful gadget comes in the shape of a champagne stopper that will keep a half-empty bottle of bubbly fresh and full of fizz for

Jane MacQuitty

EATING OUT

Experiments on the road to Mandalay

We resume our tour of the many ethnic restaurants which cosmopolitan London has to offer, arriving this week in Burma via Sri Lanka

CUISINE SRI LANKA
57 Cleveland Street, London W1 (536 9098)
Open: Mon-Fri noon-3pm and 6-11pm, Sat 6-11pm
This dimly lit, simply furnished little restaurant in the shadow of Middlesex Hospital is not entirely sure about its own identity - in addition to the short ethnic menu, it offers a blandly international list of soups and grills perhaps for those scared of experimenting. In truth, little daring (or fear) is necessary with Sri Lankan food, which is largely the southern Indian vegetable-curry diet, enriched by greater access to sea-food, a wider range of spices and the use of coconut milk. The menu here offers the

traditional egg hopper (55p) as a starter. The bowl-shaped pith cake housing a baked egg at its base is certainly unusual to look at but needs a few spoons of the tangy seni sambol (a pickle of tamarind, lemon grass, cardamom, cloves and coconut milk) to liven it up.

More distinctive is the fish ambul thiyal, a rich stew of Indian Ocean fish (the flesh soaked in tamarind and cardamom) with a more familiar taste of garlic and cinnamon.

Equally successful was a tender mutton curry laced with ginger, garlic, cloves cardamom, Sri Lankan curry powder and the ubiquitous coconut milk. Both dishes have gravies too delicious to waste, so a bowl of short-grain, yellow rice, or a plate of dilled potatoes (fried in coconut oil with chilli powder, curry leaves and cinnamon) are essential for mopping-up operations.

The range of curries also

includes beef, okra and lentil, while the ever-famous seafood section also boasts fried rings of cuttle-fish. Desserts include the deliciously liquid wood-apple cream.

Authentic Ceylon tea is worth trying too. A substantial dinner for two, with lager, should cost around £16.

MANDALAY RESTAURANT
100 Greenwich Street, London SE10 (891 0449)
Open: Thurs-Sat 7.30-10.30pm
The Mandalay, set in a small terrace of shops at the Deptford end of Greenwich, claims to be Britain's only Burmese restaurant. Gerald and Suzy Andrews, the friendly young couple who run it, describe Burmese food as a cross between Indian and Chinese: curries (seabass) are basic dishes, but there is also a reliance on noodles, spices and ginger.

They encourage experimentation by offering as starters "tasters" of main courses: punta kow star (a savoury dish of

noodles with spring fried chicken, egg fry and spicy onion) is just one that one would like to meet again later.

Starters in their own right include the tempura-like budhi jow (deep-fried slices of marrow with garlic and chilli dip) and wonderful pet-to (minced pork balls, deep-fried in wun-tun with chilli and soy sauces).

Seabass are based around freshwater king prawns, fish, pork and beef; the main courses also include a Burmese fish-ball curry, which can taste slightly too dry and slightly too much of garlic. Much more palatable is the nun nun bin curry (beef or chicken pieces laced with coriander leaves, tomatoes, onions and spices).

Stir-fried vegetables (fogar) and soup (hincer) should accompany these, together with plain or coconut rice, while a lethal-tasting relish will add heat to the proceedings. If you overdo the green chillies (anything over a millimetre), relief is at hand with mango ice-cream



or kyauk-kyaw, a coconut-topped jelly made from sea-weed extract.

The premises - bamboo-clad ground-floor reception and white basement dining-room - are pleasant, if a little basic in terms of heating and furnishing. An extensive meal for two with good French house wine should cost around £24.

Stan Hey

Burton Anderson's Italian Selection Part 2

FOUNDED BY THE SUNDAY TIMES IN 1973

The Wine Club's Italy

A chance to try The Wine Club's highly successful region-by-region survey of the best of Italian wine. Burton Anderson, the top Italian Wine writer was asked to choose 12 regional selections. These come complete with Mr Anderson's tasting notes and background details. His brief: to choose The Best wines Italy currently has on offer, irrespective of price.

The Selections average around £4 a bottle; they include delivery and Wine Club Membership for 1984. Here are three of the most popular:

4 Enotria

From the foot of the Italian boot: two dry whites, one, an extraordinary winemaking miracle of freshness (yet grown in torrid heat) and the other the unique and memorably named *Locorotondo*; plus three old-fashioned, big reds; and a perfect dry rose.

Two bottles each of the following for £42.99

Whites
Pinot Bianco Simoni Estate 1982
Locorotondo Bianco DOC Cantina Sociale 1982

Reds
Castel del Monte Rosso DOC Rivera 1982
Castel del Monte Rosso DOC Antonio Librandi 1979
Aglianico del Vulturno Rosso DOC
Frattelli D'Angelo 1977

5 Friuli

A seven wine case from Italy's answer to Alsace - mostly dry whites, all crisp, clean and perfectly made: a Sauvignon, a Tokay, a Pinot Blanc, a straight Pinot Gris and a "champagnised" Pinot Gris. Plus just two gentle reds: a Merlot and a Refosco. A twelve bottle case for £54.99 (Two bottles of each unless stated)

Sparkling
Il Grigio Spumante NV E. Collavini (one bottle)

Whites
Pinot Grigio Collio DOC Conti Formentini Estate 1982 (one bottle)
Sauvignon Collio DOC Marco Felluga 1982
Pinot Bianco Collio DOC Borgo Conventi Estate 1982
Tocai Friulano Colli Orientali del Friuli DOC
Abbazia di Rosazzo Estate 1982

Reds
Merlot Collio DOC Ronco Bianchis Estate 1981
Refosco Colli Orientali del Friuli DOC
Ronchi di Formaz Estate 1981

6 Tuscany

Two dry whites with enough flavour between them to fill a fruit bowl; then a young Chianti; and a "Grand" Chianti; plus two other Tuscan reds, even more complex, mouth-filling and worthwhile than Chianti itself. Two bottles each of the following for £48.40

Whites
Bianco Vergine Valdi DOC: Avignonesi
Vermentino di Sardegna DOC: Falchini

Reds
Chianti Classico DOC Caporali Estate 1981
Chianti Classico DOC Caporali Estate 1979
Chianti Classico DOC Caporali Estate 1979
Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOC: Avignonesi Estate 1979

The Wine Club's Italy Order Form

To: The Wine Club, New Aquitaine House, Paddock Road, Reading, Berkshire RG4 0JY
Telephone Orders Reading (0734) 481713 (24 hours)

Please send ☐ Enotria Case(s) (M134) at £42.99 a case of 12 bottles
Please send ☐ Friuli Case(s) (M164) at £54.99 a case of 12 bottles
Please send ☐ Tuscany Case(s) (M128) at £48.40 a case of 12 bottles

Includes Membership for 1984 and Delivery

I enclose a cheque for £ payable to
Or debit my Access / Visa / American Express number

Name (I am over 18)
Address
Postcode
Day Tel. No.
Signature Members insert Number:

UK Mailed only. Allow 21 days for delivery. Offer available while stocks last.
The Direct Sunday Times Wine Club, Times Newspapers Ltd, New Printing House Square, City, 1 Im Road, London WC1X 8EE, Reg No. 89466
Direct Wines (Wholesale) Ltd, Reg Office New Aquitaine House, Paddock Road, Reading, Berks RG4 0JY Reg No. 89509

REVIEW Video

Still going steady with Cathy, Cilla and Sandie

Ready Steady Go! Volume One
Picture Music TVE 90 1959 2,
£19.95 (59 min.)
Gilt Group: The Story of a Sound
MGM/UA UMV 10194, VHS/Beta,
(62 min.)

Ready Steady Go! is pop music's Holy Grail. Two decades after its heyday, in a business supposedly dedicated to novelty and revolution, pop's practitioners still strive to attain the state of grace they imagine was embodied in the series of television programmes broadcast on Friday evenings in 1964 and 1965, when the sun shone as endlessly as in childhood and the world began to turn Day-Glo.

Following 6.5 Special: Oh How Drunken and Thank Your Lucky Stars, RSG! discovered the perfect formula for a pop magazine show: songs, interviews, fashion and dancers. Particularly lots of dancers, and lots of fashion. Friday evening by the television became a guide to the next day's shopping: a new single by an obscure American rhythm and blues singer, a new high-colored paisley shirt, a newer and cooler set of steps for the party that night.

The weekend starts here! That's what it said, and that's how it felt at the time. Wisely, the programme was terminated before it could lose its energy. The legend began to grow. Would we ever see again those magical programmes featuring James Brown and Otis Redding, the Beatles and the Rolling Stones? Subsequent television producers, vainly labouring to create badly smudged copies, probably hoped not. Nothing could live beside its memory, even eventually, in the imaginings of those who had never seen it.

Now the opportunity has come for RSG! to put up or shut up, to prove the validity of its reputation or to stand revealed as nothing more than the product of a self-absorbed generation's overheated enthusiasm. Canny old Dave Clark - he of "Glad All Over" and "Bits and Pieces" - bought what had survived of the entire series years ago, and has at last released a first instalment containing 15 performances spanning the years 1964 to 1966, from the Beatles' "Can't Buy Me Love" to the Rolling Stones' "Paint It Black".

Immediately one can say this: the legend is safe. So clearly does this tape evoke the sensations of its era that purchasers of a certain age are strongly advised against viewing it for the first time on a Friday evening, when they

would probably find themselves worrying about homework rather than pension rights.

Although pieced together from many editions, the tape represents practically every memorable aspect of the show: the new superstars of the Beat Room, happy to appear in this elite showcase; the newcomers making astonishingly assured first steps, fading star of an earlier era desperately hoping to update his image; and the contrasting styles of the presenters, the avuncular Keith Forde and the flustered Cathy McGowan, both living up to any subsequent caricature.

In terms of pop history, probably the most valuable sequences feature the first television appearance of the Animals, performing "Baby Let Me Take You Down", and then, with "Baby Please Don't Go", one is transfixed anew by the driving commitment of Burdon and Morrison, fresh down from Tyneside and Belfast respectively and determined to make their mark on Swinging London; these were no puppets of the pop process.

Nor was Dusty Springfield, whose poised rendering of "Every Day I Have to Cry" sums up RSG's cool elitism as well as George Forme's Ivy League-meets-Wardour Street flip through "Yeh Yeh", the number one hit which took him out of the Flamingo all-nighters and into the world of light entertainment.

Ringo, Paul, George and John, "You Can't Do That in Addition to its A-side, benefitting from the high-contrast film tight-crop-ups of black fringes and bleached cheekbones look positively expressionist; "Under My Thumb", the second Stones clip, features Brian Jones, preening front and centre, the Who, defying "Anyways, Anyhow, Anywhere" so aggressively that the cameramen must have been in mortal terror; Cilla and Lulu and Sadie Emote in their various ways through "You're My World", "Shout" and "Girl Don't Come", looking like a Biba catalogue.

The only aspect of the original show missing from this first volume of "greatest hits" is RSG's frequent presentation of American stars known only to the hard-core Mod audience. Inez and Charlie Fox would never have found their way onto Saturday Night at the London Palladium, but on RSG! they were stars. Pending the rectification of that omission in future volumes, one might invest in *Girl Groups*, enjoyable documentary concen-



The weekend starts here: Ready Steady Go regulars Eric Burdon, hostess Cathy McGowan - reality measures up to the image - and Cilla Black

trating on the kind of music the American pop industry was producing just before, and during the onset of Beatlemania.

For the benefit of those who have never mentally grouped them into a genre, the girl groups were such as the Chiffons, the Cookies, the Shirelles and the Crystals. Steve Alpert's film, based on Alan Betrock's splendid book of the same name (published by Delilah), talks both to the back-room writers and producers (Jerry Leiber, Mike Stoller, Ellie Greenwich, Richard Gottschall) and to the singers, including Veronica Bennett of the Ronettes (who tells, for the umpteenth time, the mawkish tale of her marriage to the "genius" Phil Spector), the Supremes' incisively intelligent Mary Wilson and the Chantels' Arlene Smith. Period footage comes mostly from US television's *Shindig* show; the non-availability of some of the crucial items is an obvious weakness.

Speaking of such records as the Shirelles' "Will You Love Me Tomorrow", the Shangri-Las' "Remember (Walking in the Sand)" and the Angels' "My Boyfriend's Back", Jerry Leiber hits precisely the right note: "Naive, innocent, full of fantasy, full of hope and promise". Watching the Dixie Cups, the Exciters, Martha and the Vandellas, the Supremes and Mary Wells, one can only regret that the Rolling Stones and their like came along to paint a backer word.

Richard Williams

A cowboy makes good

Atlantic City (1981) Videospace, £29.95 (105 min.)
Conversation Piece (1974) VCL Video, £22 (115 min.)
The Professionals (1966) RCA/Columbia, £44 (123 min.)
Local Hero (1983) Thom EMI, £50.95 (107 min.)

Burt Lancaster is one of the few actors regarded with equal reverence in the United States and continental Europe. His career has taken him from all-American athlete, tough-guy and cowboy to European intellectual and aristocrat. In every role he has displayed an intelligence and sensitivity rare among his contemporaries. Even in his more straightforward parts, he leaves the impression of something deeper.

Atlantic City shows him at his most subtle and authoritative. French director Louis Malle stunningly evokes the seedy present of a faded city, once rich and elegant, trying to win its way back to fortune through bigger and brasher casinos. Lancaster plays an aging, second-rate former gangster who, for a few days, is unexpectedly given a taste of love, money and notoriety. It is an understated, moving, wholly believable performance, one of the two or three best of his career.

It was in Luchino Visconti's masterpiece, *The Leopard*, that Lancaster proved beyond doubt that he was one of the great actors of the post-war cinema.

Marcel Berlins

Wisdom potted by experts

Reardon Master Series (three cassettes, each 28 mins) Reed Vision, £15 each or £40 the set
Play Better Snooker (54 mins) Precision Video, £22.50

Thanks almost entirely to television, snooker has been transformed from a minority activity of dubious reputation to the second most popular indoor sport in Britain - after darts.

The beauty of snooker on television is that the entire game can be contained in one camera shot and there are not many sports of which this can be said.

What applies to television is equally true of video and it is good to see two companies compiling cassettes of original material on how to play the game.

Ray Reardon's three-part course is the more informal and theatrical. The six-times world champion welcomes us at the entrance to Eastnor Castle, Leicestershire, the location for the series, wearing a check jacket that would not have disgraced Max Miller, and in the castle's oak-paneled ambience takes us clearly through the nuts and bolts of the game: the grip, the bridge, the stance, and on to all those clever shots that leave the cue ball in just the right place for the next move.

That, roughly, is the area covered by the first two cassettes, labelled "basic skills" and "intermediate skills", in which two amateur players are used as guinea pigs to try out shots and techniques. Computer graphics are brought in for further illumination. On the third cassette, "strategy", Reardon explains the finer points of an actual game, played against a promising 15-year-old boy, and it finishes with a collection of his famous trick shots.

Play Better Snooker, with commentary by John Pulman and demonstrations by Terry Griffiths - two other former world champions - is even more like an animated textbook, with each topic carefully explained and a caption summarizing the main points.

Compared with Reardon, The Pulman-Griffiths combination is a little solemn but tends to be more thorough. Having struggled to grasp the principles of snooker, spin and screw from Reardon, I found the rival camp's explanation brilliantly clear. The Pulman-Griffiths cassette is probably the better one for the absolute beginner, since it covers the basics so well; on the other hand, it does not go as far as Reardon on the strategy of the game and has less claim to be a complete course.

Peter Waymark

PREVIEW Galleries



Master class: Einstein on violin, Rostropovich on cello by Glikman

A portrait of Prokofiev with a noose around his neck and others of dissident poets led to Gabriel Glikman's fall from grace in the Soviet Union. The exhibition in Leningrad in 1968 was closed after three days - the authorities believed his approach cast doubts on the humanism of the Russian state.

Now some of these "heretical" paintings can be seen at the first exhibition in London of Glikman's work which opens at the Wyllie Wayne Gallery on Wednesday.

"After 1968 there was a very strange and intolerant atmosphere surrounding me", Glikman recalls. "There was no air left to breathe, not enough freedom for work and for life. I was isolated and cut off, and my studio was no longer on the list of those to which foreign visitors are taken." None of his work was allowed to leave the Soviet Union until Glikman himself left in 1980.

Glikman, aged 70, who now lives as a stateless person in West Germany, was for many years one of Russia's foremost sculptors.

He knew many of Russia's leading cultural figures, includ-

Clare Colvin

Critics' choice

THE CITY'S PICTURES

Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (030 4141). Tues-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 10am-6pm.

A semi-permanent display of painting and sculpture belonging to the Corporation of London goes on show for the rest of the year. Many of the 70 or so works are well-known.

Pre-Raphaelite paintings, including Leighton's *The Music Lesson*, Holman Hunt's *The Eve of St Agnes* and Millais's *My First Sermon*, and *My Second Sermon*. There is also a room of Matthew Smith oil-paintings and a selection of photographs by Edward Curtis.

SHERIFFS

Main and terrace foyers, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (022 2033). Until Mar 24, Mon-Sat 10am-11pm.

Probably best remembered for his regular caricatures of film personalities in *Punch*, between 1948 and his death in 1961, Robert Stewart Sheriffs first achieved fame in the 1920s when he illustrated a series of barbed impressions of current celebrities by Beverly Nichols in *The Sketch*. His crisp and economical line

Photography

KARSH OF OTTAWA

National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2. Until 31 Apr. Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Admission 50p, students and pensioners 25p.

Seventy-fifth birthday show of portrait photographs by Yousuf Karsh, whose professional aim has been to capture greatness through the camera. The rich and famous, Karsh's staple fare, are never allowed to present anything other than their public faces in contrived and formal elegance. It is a formula that makes one feel that Karsh has only ever taken one photograph, however his popularity endures.

PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT SHOW

Hamiltons Gallery, 13 Canon St, London W1 (093 5483) Tues until Mar 5, Mon-Sat 9.30am-5.30pm.

This commercial gallery continues to do sterling work by mixing pop photographic shows with more respected names. This show is drawn from their print collection, and includes work by Cecil Beaton (1920s), Norman Parkinson, John Swannell (still-life), and Angus McBean. All prints are for sale.

PREVIEW Dance

ROYAL BALLET

Covent Garden (240 1066). Today at 2pm and 7.30pm, Wed and Fri at 7.30pm.

Kenneth MacMillan's new ballet, *Flamingo*, based on Buchner's play *Woyzeck*, using music by Webern and Schoenberg, has its premiere on Fri. Wayne Eagling and Alessandra Ferri dance the leads. *Song of the Earth* (with Marcia Haydée and Richard Craig as guest stars) and *Afternoon of a Faun* complete the bill. All bookable seats are sold, but try on the day for rear amphitheatre, standing or returns. Also this week three performances of *La Fille mal gardée*.

MANTIS

The Place (387 0031). Wed to Feb 25 at 8pm.

New works by director Micha Bergese and guest choreographers Michael Clark and Matthew Hawkins are on this ambitious small company's London programme, plus a reprise of the popular *Rotary Club*.

BALLET RAMBERT

Birmingham Rep (021 236 4455). Today at 4pm and 8pm.

York, Royal (0904 23568). Tues until Feb 25 at 7.30; matinee Sat at 2.30pm.

Christopher Bruce's new work

to Janáček's *Intimate Letters* given at all the evening performances.

Tonight, Merce Cunningham's *Fielding Sixes* and the Bridget Riley *Colour Moves* complete the bill; next week, Ashton's *Capriol Suite* and Brahms *Waltzes*, plus Robert North's *Entre des Agnes*.

LONDON CONTEMPORARY

Leeds, Grand (0532 453351). Today at 7.30pm.

Liverpool, Empire (051 708 1656). Tues to Feb 25 at 7.30pm.

One of the company's new creations, given each night: Robert Cohen's piece to Bach music (the Thurs Brandenburg Concerto and Chaconne in D minor) until Wed, Stephen Davies's work to a piano score by the American composer John Adams from Thurs. Tom Jobe's *Run like Thunder* and Davies's *Carnival* complete the first programme; Cohen's *Songs, Prayers and Lamentations* and Christopher Blomgren's *Canto Traber* the second.

Galleries: John Russell Taylor; Photography: Michael Young; Dances: John Percival

Bulbs that light up the garden after winter

Gardening has been very hard this winter. While some places have had snow and high winds, others have experienced a mixture of bright sun and torrential rain. Such extremes have made it almost impossible to forecast the flowering times of early flowering plants. In London and the South East they are coming a little earlier than usual; in the north they will be a little later.

Areas which are protected or where the ground does not lie wet and heavy for long periods are the first to show colour in the spring. Snowdrops are always the first to bloom: try to plant them in places where they are clearly visible and require no maintenance.

Soon after the snowdrop comes the winter aconite, *Lanthes hyemalis*. These tubers are best purchased in the spring when their yellow flowers are fading. Once the bulbs have got established, allow them to seed themselves and they will quickly colonize a piece of ground. Although the plant is only 3in tall it should not be exposed to strong winds.

Leucojum vernum, the spring snowflake, flowers in February or March, it is not to be

confused with *Leucojum aestivum*, the summer snowflake, which flowers in late spring or early summer. It is a graceful plant which grows about 10in and has flowers like snowdrops. Spring snowflakes should not be disturbed once they have been planted so site them where they can be allowed to grow untouched until they need dividing.

Hardy cyclamen are ideal garden plants as they need little or no attention once planted and established. The early flowering forms are *C. coum*, *C. balearicum* and *C. libanoticum*. They grow well anywhere in the south but in the north they should be given a well sheltered site. Do not make the common mistake of planting the corms too deeply.

One of the finest sights in early spring is the *Narcissus cyclamineus* February Gold. Its flowers are reflexed like those of the species *cyclamineus* but they are much bigger. They last a long time as they flower early, when the weather is cool. Peeping Tom is another in the *cyclamineus* group; it is a little shorter than February Gold and flowers about 10 days to a fortnight later.

Leucojum vernum, the spring snowflake, flowers in February or March, it is not to be



Both are more expensive than other naturalizing narcissus: February Gold costs twice as much as King Alfred and Peeping Tom is about three times as dear. Varieties of narcissus also include Angel's Tears, *N. triandrus albus*, a 7in high plant with silvery white flowers which come in clusters. This is unlikely to flower before early March.

Iris reticulata is a real beauty. About 6ft tall with scented flowers, it is ideal for areas round the terrace where it can be seen from the windows. Try the form *Caniab*, which has light blue flowers with a yellow blotch, and Joyce, whose flowers are lavender. *I. danfordiae*

usually comes a little earlier than *reticulata* and has scented yellow flowers with brown spots.

Crocus tomasinianus, is in flower now, really needs a bright sunny day to show off to its best advantage. The lilac-purple flowers show before the plants are fully in leaf and it is an ideal naturalizing crocus. *C. sieberi* Violet Queen has violet blue flowers which look up towards the sky as they open. It does better when it is not growing through grass as it is less able to cope with competition than *C. tomasinianus*.

A distinct blue is not an easy colour to come by but one plant which will provide it is *Scilla*

sibirica. Its deep rich blue flowers which grow no higher than 4in in mid March are a joy to see. It will grow as well through grass as it will in the front of borders or in containers on the terrace. The form *Spring Beauty* is a much lighter blue and is a little taller but it will tolerate the same conditions.

My final spring flowering selection is *Iphion uniflorum*, sometimes known as *Tristelia*. It will produce scented flowers from March onwards but it needs protection. The form *Wesley Blue* has larger, violet-blue flowers and will grow to about 6in.

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Ashley Stephenson

Weeping wonder

True weeping plants are not easily come by. It takes time for the slow-growing conifer *Picea breweriana* to reach a good size, but when it does the branches fall almost vertically.

As a rule the tree is grafted, but the better forms are found as seedlings.

In the early stages, while the tree is establishing itself, it should be given some protection. Plant out in a position protected from cold winds and make sure it is not in a frost pocket. It likes a good soil with a reasonable supply of moisture. Do not plant in a dry site. It is important that the tree remains as upright as possible.

Picea breweriana is not easily obtained and you will have to shop around to get a good specimen. It is listed by Hilliers of Winchester and Blooms of Dixie. The latter's plants are grafted. Plants will cost about £10 each.

Gone with the wind

High winds wreak havoc with trees and it is important to put the damage right immediately. Trees which have been blown over should be removed and damaged ones checked for safety.

If large limbs have been blown out, climb the tree to make sure the branch snag can be made safe. When you are up there, check holes in the main trunk for rot and ensure they are not so deep as to make the tree a danger. Drain collected water by drilling a hole from below into the bottom of the cavity. Allow the wound to dry naturally. Check tree ties to prevent the roof system of young trees being weakened by the wind.

Ashley Stephenson

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HONDA TILLERS

PREVIEW Theatre

A frankly desirable Mermaid

A new chapter in the previously troubled history of the Mermaid Theatre at Puddle Dock opens next week with *A Streetcar Named Desire*, the first production under its new ownership since its sale last October.

The theatre, with its synaesthesis of Bernard Miles, who founded and ran it for more than 20 years, is now owned by Gamba Holdings, whose head, Mr Abdul Samad, also owns the Garrick and Duchess Theatre. His declared intention is to continue to run the Mermaid as a live theatre, with improved restaurant and conference facilities.

The production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* comes from the Greenwich Theatre, where it was well received by the critics, and will be the first revival of a Tennessee Williams play in or near the West End since the playwright's death last year. It is produced by Bill Kenwright, artistic director of the Greenwich Theatre, who trained at the Mermaid. His other recent West End transfers include *Private Lives* and *Design for Living*.

stage with its treatment of nymphomania, homosexuality and rape. It also launched the young Marlon Brando on the road to stardom with his portrayal of the brutish Stanley Kowalski.

The film version which followed established Brando as an international name, and had Vivien Leigh as Blanche DuBois, the role she played in the West End under the director of Lawrence Olivier. Although the film version is inevitably the better known than the play, it is considerably toned down from the stage version and specially rewritten with a happy ending.

Sheila Gish, who plays Blanche in this new production, was singled out for praise for her performance at Greenwich. She has acted in Tennessee Williams's plays before, notably in the controversial production of *Viewers Carve at the Piccadilly Theatre* in 1978.

After that play opened, Williams insisted on changes in the script which cut some of her speeches and involved her learning new lines. Miss Gish refused on the grounds that the changes meant that the play had "ceased to be the part that I had originally wanted to play so very much", and withdrew from the production.

She has appeared in many West End productions, including Alan Ayckbourn's *Confusions*, also directed by Alan Strachan. Last year she played the title role in Racine's *Bertrande* at the Lyric, Hammer-smith, and Elena in *Uncle Vanya* at the Haymarket, while immediately before *Streetcar* she played Countess Sophie opposite Alan Bates in *A Patriot for Me* at Chichester.

Brando's former role is played by Paul Herzberg, making his West End debut. He has had parts in several television series, including *Smiley's People*, and his films include *Bullshit*.

The new owners look good for the re-opening of the Mermaid. Its new owners are determined to attract people to Puddle Dock to make full use of it, and believe the river can be a way of enticing an audience there by boat, or even, with a floating dock by helicopter. The first means of transport, however, is a streetcar.

Christopher Warman

A Streetcar Named Desire previews at the Mermaid, London EC4 (236 5568) from Tues and opens on Feb 28 at 7 pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.45 pm, matinees Sat at 3 pm.



Lively lady: Sheila Gish, outstanding as Blanche DuBois

Critics' choice

THE BIKO INQUEST (748 3354) Until Mar 4, Tues-Sat at 8 pm. This cool and scrupulous version of the investigation following the black South African leader Steve Biko's death in custody is the first fruit of a new British actors' company including Albert Finney (as the questioning counsel), Michael Gough, Michael Aldridge and Edward Hardwicke.

THE CUSTOM OF THE COUNTRY The Pit (628 8795/638 8891) Fri at 7.30 pm. In repertory with *Learn by Heart* (Today at 7.30 pm) and *Tasteless* by Molière (Mon-Thurs at 7.30 pm; matinee Thurs at 2 pm). Taking a rare Jacobean comedy as its starting point, Nicholas Wright's tale of innocent and fleshly love in a turn-of-the-century Transvaal has a highly original flavour and provides Sara Kestelman and Sinead Cusack with two splendidly extravagant roles.

GLENN GARY GLEN ROSS (Today at 7.30 pm) In repertory with *Strider* by Mark Roseng (Today at 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm, Mon at 7.30 pm). David Mervin's menacing account of the shark-eat-sprat world of US real estate salesmen has a resonance that transcends a cast including Jack Shepherd and Tony Haygarth in top form do it justice.

HAY FEVER Queen's (734 1166) Until April 14, Mon-Fri at 7.30 pm.

Sat at 5 pm and 8.15 pm; matinees Wed at 3 pm. Noël Coward's 1920s comedy about a theatrical family and their mixed bag of persecuted house guests remains hilarious after any number of revivals, and Penelope Keith takes to the leading lady's part as though to the bad manners born.

LEAR The Pit (628 8795/638 8891) Today at 7.30 pm. In repertory with *The Custom of the Country* and *Tasteless* by Molière (Mon-Thurs at 7.30 pm; matinee Thurs at 2 pm). Edward Bond's grim prophetic fantasy on themes from *King Lear* is even more compelling in this close-quarters studio setting. Squallish viewers need a torture valve for otherwise Bob Peck and the cast promise a provocative, rewarding experience.

LUCKY BAG Ambassadors (636 1171) Until Feb 25, Mon-Sat 8 pm. Transferring from the King's Head, Victoria Wood's new show brings an exuberant solo performance and some brilliantly inclusive cabaret songs to brighten the West End.

MASTER CLASS Old Vic (628 7516) Until Feb 25, Mon-Fri at 7.30 pm, Sat at 7.30 pm and 7.45 pm; matinees Wed at 2.30 pm. Stalin's 1948 pressure session with composers Prokofiev and Shostakovich gives David Pownall the setting for an alarming yet sometimes horribly funny drama. Full of food for thought on art and politics and the relation between them. Timothy-West's fearsome

Stalin is a complex study on the grand scale.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Barbican (628 8795/638 8891) Today at 2 pm and 7.30 pm. In repertory with *Maydays* and *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand (Mon-Thurs at 7.30 pm; matinee Thurs at 2 pm). Absolutely not to be missed, Terry Hands's production is a sheer delight and the outstanding success of the Royal Shakespeare Company's current Barbican season. Derek Jacobi and Sinead Cusack make a Benedict and Beatrice of exceptional wit, intelligence and charm.

NOISES OFF Savoy (636 8888) Mon-Fri at 7.45 pm, Sat at 5 pm and 8.30 pm; matinees Wed at 3 pm and 7.30 pm. In repertory with *Michael Frayn's* farce of backstage mishaps and misbehaviour during a ghostly rep-fodder sex comedy is still wildly funny. Amanda Barrie excels herself as the veteran character charlatry and several newcomers make a bright showing in a production that gets slicker with each change of cast.

RENTS Lyric, Hammersmith (741 2211) Until Mar 10, Mon-Fri at 7.45 pm; matinees Thurs at 2.30 pm, Sat at 4 pm. First seen at Hammersmith (now directed by William Gaskill) looks at part-time rent boys in Edinburgh at first hand, and finds material for a play full of understanding, charm and raw wit.

Out of Town

BELESTAF Grand Opera House (0232 241919). *Elvis - The Musical*. Final performances today at 6 pm and 9 pm. Paul Elliott's new version of the show, produced by Jack Good and Ray Cooney in the West End and now touring the UK before a world tour. Vince Eager, Bo Willis and J. J. Mclean play Elvis Presley.

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING Technicolor Dreamcoat by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. Opens Mon at 7.30 pm, Fri and Sat at 6 pm and 9 pm. Phenomenally successful touring production of the biblical musical which first made its team famous.

BRISTOL New Vic (0272 24368). *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen. Until Mar 10, Mon-Wed (not Mar 5) at 7.15 pm, Thurs-Sat at 7.45 pm. New production of an Ibsen play regarded by his contemporaries as subversive and still powerfully persuasive on the theme of personal freedom and determination.

BRIGHTON Gardner Centre, University of Sussex, Falmer (0273 655861). *Black Mas* by John Constantine. Opens Mon at 7.45 pm, Fri and Sat at 7.45 pm. New play, presented by the Foco New company, on tour through the spring. Roland Pees directs a story of carnival time, Trinidad, 1982.

BROMLEY Churchill (460 6577). *Ballerina* by Anne Skouen. Until Feb 25, Mon-Fri at 7.45 pm, Sat at 8 pm.

8 pm; matinees Thurs at 2.30 pm, Fri at 4.30 pm.

DOROTHY TUNN and *Aubrey Woods* as the parents of an emotionally disturbed girl with whom the mother can communicate only through the language of dance. Peter Rice directs this British premiere of a Norwegian play.

GUILDFORD Yvonne Arnold (0483 60191). *The Aspern Papers* by Michael Redgrave from Henry James. Until Mar 3, Mon-Fri at 7.45 pm, Sat at 5 pm and 8 pm; matinee Thurs at 2.30 pm. Wendy Hiller, Vanessa Redgrave, Christopher Reeve, directed by Fritjof Benbury. Transfers to the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, in March.

PETERBOROUGH Key (0733 52439). *Jesus Christ Superstar* by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. Until Mar 3, Mon-Thurs at 7.30 pm (not Feb 27 and 28), Fri at 6 pm and 9 pm, Sat at 5 pm and 8 pm; matinees Feb 28, Mar 1 at 2.30 pm.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON Royal Shakespeare (0789 295623) Look, No Hosiery by John Chapman and Michael Pertwee. Final performances today at 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm. David Jason and Paul Rogers in a new comedy, directed by Mike Ockrent, with Gabrielle Drake. Touring before a West End run.

Fish trapped in deep waters

"What's the big interest in the pet store all of a sudden?" a local cop asks the youthful heroes of Francis Coppola's new film *Rumble Fish*, named after a peculiar breed of Siamese fish swimming in a tank by the window. There is no easy answer, for down-to-earth logic plays little part in the proceedings.

The fish, for instance, are in colour; the rest of the film is in black-and-white. Elsewhere, clouds scud by via time-lapse photography, smoke billows prettily over steps and pavements, rhythmic music ticks away like a demented clock, and the cast is enshrined in surreal compositions. *Rumble Fish*, in short, is that precious rarity: a Hollywood film that holds no truck with commercial platitudes and goes flat out for art.

Coppola has declared: "I try to alternate between a traditional film like *The Godfather* and another which is without restraint, beyond the pale of all limitations". For many, his

previous film, *The Outsiders*, was drearier enough, with its lush retroactive style and skies of glowing orange. Yet *Rumble Fish* takes its method considerably further.

Once again Coppola's source is a novel by S. E. Hinton, the lady chronicler of anarchic, poetic American youth who leaped to fame in high school. But where *The Outsiders* spun a conventional tale of delinquent romance, *Rumble Fish* aims at deeper goals.

At the centre are two brothers: the Motorcycle Boy, colour-blind and partially deaf after too much adolescence (played by Mickey Rourke, from *Diner*); and the younger Rusty-James, who worships him blindly (played by Matt Dillon, featured in *The Outsiders*). Around them hover themes of alienation, blighted hopes and the pressures of time.

Coppola responded particularly to Rusty-James's predicament: "I also understand what it feels like to be in awe of your

older brother because I have an older brother". The film, indeed, is dedicated to him: "August Coppola, my first and best teacher".

For all its highly-wrought artifice, Coppola prepared the film fairly quickly. He first read the novel during the shooting of *The Outsiders* in spring 1982; by late summer and autumn he returned with much of the same crew and cast on the same 'Tulsa' locations. Key collaborators like Dean Tavoularis (production designer) and Steve Burum (photographer) primed their imaginations with nightly screenings of German silent classics by Lang, Murnau and Robert Wiene. Whether *Rumble Fish* reaches classic status remains to be seen, but it is definitely a film like no other.

Geoff Brown

Rumble Fish (cert 18) opens in London on Thurs at the Lumiere, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (836 0691).

Critics' choice

Odson Kensington (602 6644) *Classics* Ottenham Court Road (536 6148) ICA Cinema (930 3647, closed Mon).

A self-obsessed, divorced health addict meets a neurotic, abandoned wife on a Manhattan sidewalk; they enjoy a fraught romance. This could only be the work of director Henry Jaglom, the wayward American independent who struck comic gold with the low-budget, semi-improvised *Sitting Ducks*. A marvellous exploration of human relationships, true and tender, and radiantly droll. As in the earlier film, Michael Emil talks his head off; Karen Black gives her best performance to date.

DREAM FLIGHTS (PG) Gate Bloomsbury (537 1177/8402) until Fri.

Oleg Yankovsky (star of *Nostalgia*) plays an office worker who becomes a romantic rebel thrown into panic by his impending fortieth birthday. Roman Balayan directs this Russian comedy, shown at the Moscow and Cannes Film Festivals.

FIRST NAME CARMEN (18) Camden Plaza (485 2443) Chelsea Cinema (351 3742) Jean-Luc Godard takes elements from the Carmen story and the American gangster film genre and intercuts them with rehearsals of Beethoven quartets. As usual with Godard, it is a many-layered piece, easier to describe than to interpret. It won the Golden Lion at Venice but the critics have been less enthusiastic. Newcomers Maruschka Detmers and Jacques Bonafie are the obsessive lovers and Godard turns up playing himself.

THE HONORARY CONSUL (18) Classic Chelsea (352 5096) Classic Haymarket (838 1527) Classic Tottenham Court Road (836 6148)

REAR WINDOW (PG) Plaza Piccadilly Circus (437 1234) Screen on Baker Street (835 2772) One of Hitchcock's most audacious thrillers returns to public prominence after years in limbo. James Stewart stars as the photographer who locates a nasty murder in his telephoto lens while nursing a broken leg.

STARSTRUCK (PG) Gate Bloomsbury (537 1177/8402) Cheerful, Australian, punk-tinged musical, bubbling with optimism, friendly characters and warm local atmosphere; a marked change of style for director Gillian Armstrong.

UNDER FIRE (15) Leicester Square Theatre (830 5252) Three journalists covering the Nicaraguan revolution in 1979 find their personal and professional allegiances pushed to breaking point. An old Hollywood plot rattles along in Roger Spottiswoode's thriller like old dried peas in a gleaming new pod. But the action is excitingly staged, and Spottiswoode finds good use for Nick Nolte's monolithic presence.

VASSA (PG) Camden Plaza (485 2443) Gieb Panfilov has considerably expanded Gorky's play about a patriarch who stops at nothing to preserve his family business. He moves the action to immediately before the First World War, makes the patriarch Vassa more acute and sophisticated and attempts a deeper analysis of the bourgeois class than Gorky did. Sometimes the film runs around on its own sumptuous furnishings and lengthy dialogue.

The information in this column was correct at the time of going to press. Late changes are often made and it is advisable to check, using the telephone numbers given.

PREVIEW Music

Concerts

MESSIAEN PREMIERE Tomorrow, 7.45 pm, Barbican Centre, 88, Strand, London EC2 (628 8795, credit cards 638 8891) The Young Musicians' Symphony Orchestra under James Blair gives the Barbican premiere of Messiaen's *Le Tombeau des Reines* and also plays Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben*. Shura Cherkassky is at the piano for Rachmaninov's *Paganini Rhapsody*.

NEW IMAGES III Tomorrow, 4.30 pm, Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, London W6 (748 3354) For the third programme in their "New Images of Sound" series Music Projects/London offer Gehlhaar's *Sub Rosa* and the British premiere of his *Spektra*. Also Dench's *Paravents*.

ELGAR, HOLST Tomorrow, 7.15 pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (828 3191, credit cards 828 6544) The fiftieth anniversaries of the deaths of Elgar and Holst are marked by the City of London Sinfonia and the Westminster Singers with vocal and instrumental pieces including Elgar's *Ave Verum Corpus* and Sospini, Holst's *Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda*.

BLACK ANGEL Tomorrow, 8 pm, Barnfield Theatre, Barnfield Road, Exeter (0322 211090) The Allegri Quartet performs *Black Angel* by George Crumb, an American composer of whom we hear too little. Mozart's Quartet K 454 and Beethoven's Quartet Op 95 are also on the programme.

The second part of the BBC's "Music of Eight Decades" series begins on Friday with a concert in the Festival Hall. It will be followed by four more concerts over the next four months. Several of the items on the series programme will be for some of us as reminders of our musical youth. Among them are *Birtwistle's The World is Discovered* (1966), Boulez's *Improvisation sur Mallarmé* (1957), Stockhausen's *Konturpunkte* (1953) and, most aesthetically of all, Boulez's *Le Soleil des Eaux* (1948).

This last work will be heard in Friday's concert, along with Boulez's *Le Visage Nuptial* (1946), which, remarkably enough, will be receiving its British premiere. The composer himself will conduct the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Singers, who will also be performing Weber's *Orchestral Pieces Op 6* and *Bartók's Miraculous Mandarin*. Apart from the European premiere of Late-20th-century music.

EMANUEL AX Mon, 1 pm, St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (222 1061) Emanuel Ax's piano recital interestingly juxtaposes Mozart's *A Minor Piano*, Schoenberg's *Suite Op 25* and Beethoven's *Pastorale* Sonata.

FRANKENSTEIN I Mon, 4.15 pm, Guildhall School of Music, Guildhall Street, London EC2 (628 2571) H. K. Gruber directs vocal and instrumental students of the Guildhall's Contemporary Music Workshop in a rehearsal of his

lawski's *Symphony No 3*, the other Festival Hall concert on March 23, has the least engaging programme of the series. The other items are Shostakovich's *Symphony No 1* and Britten's *Cello Symphony*.

The last three concerts will be at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Stockhausen's *Konturpunkte* is on April 17, together with early and late Dallapiccola scores and the world premiere of Muldowney's *Saxophone Concerto* (soloist, John Harle). Lohar Zagrock will conduct the London Sinfonieta. The *Birtwistle* work will be heard on May 31, in a programme with Stravinsky's *Requiem Canticles* and Tippett's *Concerto for Orchestra*. Simon Rattle conducts the London Sinfonieta and BBC Singers.

The last concert, on June 12, has Boulez's *Improvisation sur Mallarmé* between Gerhard's *heretic Leo* (1969) and Kurtág's *Messures of the late Miksa R. V.*

FRANKENSTEIN II which he describes as a "pan-demonium". The work will be performed by the London Sinfonieta at the Bloomsbury Theatre on Thurs. admission free.

COX, CLAYTON Tues, 1.05 pm, Bishopgate Hall, 230 Bishopgate, London EC2 (247 6844) After playing Poulenc's *Sonata and Bach's Sonata BWV 1033*, sax (Cox) and Nigel Clayton (piano) unearth such rarities as Bozza's *Agreste Op 44*, Ferguson's *Sketches* and Godard's *Valse Op 116 No 3*.



Pierre Boulez: Surprise premiere *Troussou*, a 1980 piece with an intriguing title. The London Sinfonieta and BBC Singers will in time be conducted by Diego Masson.

STANBACH TRIO Tues, 7.30 pm, British Music Information Centre, 10 Stratford Place, London W1 (489 5567) The Stanbach Trio play Copland's *Variations*, Tchaikovsky's *Diaghilev*, Landy's *Préludes* and the world premiere of Landy's *Duo*.

FRANKENSTEIN II Thurs, 7.30, Bloomsbury Theatre, 15 Gordon Street, London WC1 (687 9628, credit cards 380 1435) Gruber's *Frankenstein II* is a collaboration with Birtwistle's *Carmen Arcadie Mechanica Perpetuum*. Elliot Carter's *In Sleep* in *Thunder* and an *Aria* by Holloway.

THE SMITHS Tonight, Essex University; Tues, Bournemouth Town Hall; Wed, Reading University; Thurs, Swansea University; Fri, Bristol University. What passes for an alternative voice these days, worships Jim Morrison, throws gladioli at the audience and practically has a residency on *Top of the Pops*?

AL COHN Tonight and Tues-Sat, Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (439 8722) Cohn, a distinguished disciple of Lester Young, Cohn is a proverbially reliable improviser and an underrated composer/arranger (his works in all respects can be heard on a rewarding vogue release by a splendid 1950s aggregation travelling as *The Birdland All-Stars*). Here he is with Brian Lemon tonight, the Pizza All-Stars on Tues and the Eddie Thompson Trio thereafter.

DESMOND DEKKER Tonight, Dingwalls, Camden Lock, Chalk Farm Road, London NW1 (257 4567) Bob Marley made the breakthrough to intellectual credibility, but most people's first exposure to reggae came via the high, piping tones of Dekker in "It Mek", "007" and "Israelites", each of which he still performs with vigour.

Opera

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA The operatic event of the week takes place tonight in Cardiff, where WNO bring their new production of *The Valkyrie* to the New Theatre. The main attraction, of course, will be the authoritative and much-loved presence of Reginald Goodall in the pit. (0222 489977)

COVENT GARDEN The choice this week is between Michael Hampel's new production of *Giordano's* *Andrea Chénier*, not seen at Covent Garden for more than 50 years, and a revived *Bohème*. Jose Carreras leads the cast in the title role of *Chénier* (Mon and Thurs), with Rosalind Plowright as Maddalena, de Cury and Bernd Weikl as Gerard. Richard Armstrong, music director of Welsh National Opera, conducts. In *Bohème* (Tues), John Mauceri does Puccini proud in the pit, while Hungarian soprano Iona Tokody makes her Royal Opera debut as Mimì. Dennis O'Neill is her Rodolfo. (240 1066)

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA A bumper week with no less than four different productions. First comes Elijah Moshinsky's highly acclaimed new production of *Mastersingers* tonight and Thurs at 8 pm. The strong cast is led by Gwyneth Howell, to hear Romanian soprano Nelly Miricioiu as Violetta in *La Traviata*. ENO's revival of *Patience* takes over on Wed with Derek Hammond-Stroud returning to the part of Bunthorne and Patricia O'Neill in the title role. On Fri comes another reliable revival, *The Barber of Seville*. (836 3161)

PULLEN/ADAMS Tonight and Mon-Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Fifth Street, London W1 (439 0747) Don Pullen knows piano from Jelly Roll onwards; his partner, George Adams pumps a heavy dose of blues into a post-Coltrane tenor saxophone style. High-octave stuff.

CURTIS MAYFIELD Tomorrow, Ronnie Scott's Club A thrilling prospect - not for years has Mayfield, former leader of the Impressions and composer of countless classic soul, appeared in such intimate surroundings. Since he always indicated a belief that a whistler could be more powerful than a scream, this shapes up as an historic evening.

ALAN CLARE BENEFIT Tomorrow, 100 Club, 100 Oxford Street, London W1 (636 0933) Among those gathering to pay homage to the ailing British pianist said by none other than Stan Gatz to know more songs than any man alive - are Al Cohn, Benny Waters, Adelaide Hall, Tommy Whittle, George Chisholm, Dave Shepherd and Larry Adler.

Theatre Irving Wardle and Anthony Masters; Films: David Robinson and Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams

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Entertainments

What's new on the GLC South Bank?

GLC South Bank Concert Hall, Bedford Road, London SE1 8BU.
 Tickets: 01-928 3191. Information: 01-928 3192.
 BOX OFFICE opening hours: Monday to Saturday 10 am to 9 pm. Sundays 12.30 to 9 pm.
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 GROUP DISCOUNTS available for most Royal Festival and Queen Elizabeth Hall performances; details in monthly diary "Music on the South Bank" or ring 01-928 3007.
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NICHOLAS JACKSON ORGAN RECITAL

Wednesday 22 February at 5.45 pm in a recital of works by J. S. Bach, J. Haydn, S. J. Paganini, J. S. Bach.
 All seats £1.50 unreserved.

VICTOR JARA FESTIVAL

Mercedes Sosa, Angel & Isabel Parra, with special guests in a concert given as part of the GLC South Bank Festival.
 Royal Festival Hall: Friday 2 March at 7.30 pm.
 £2.20 £3.30 £4.40 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50.

Saturday 17 Feb	7.30 pm	RSFP PLAYS Concerting Sings... The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Flight of the Eagle (1.10, 2.10, 2.30 only)
Sunday 18 Feb	3.15 pm	THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras
Sunday 18 Feb	7.30 pm	LONDON PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras
Monday 19 Feb	7.30 pm	LONDON PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras
Tuesday 20 Feb	7.30 pm	THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras
Wednesday 21 Feb	7.30 pm	THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras
Thursday 22 Feb	7.30 pm	THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras
Friday 23 Feb	7.30 pm	THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras
Saturday 24 Feb	7.30 pm	THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras
Sunday 25 Feb	7.30 pm	THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras
Monday 26 Feb	7.30 pm	THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras
Tuesday 27 Feb	7.30 pm	THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras
Wednesday 28 Feb	7.30 pm	THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras
Thursday 29 Feb	7.30 pm	THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras
Friday 30 Feb	7.30 pm	THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras The Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonia Conductor: Sir Charles Mackerras

THE MUSIC BOX

Saturday 18 February: Toot Sweet
 Sunday 19 February: Dominic Allis Trio
 Originals by Dominic Allis and David Heath plus jazz standards.
 Friday 24 February: Croyth
 Jazz/Latin etc.

EXHIBITIONS

Exploring Living Memory (17 February-4 March).
 A Woodland Year (13-28 February).
 Musicians (Until 12 March).

Queen Elizabeth Hall

OLIVER TWIST (PG)

Clive Donner's new film of the novel by Charles Dickens starring
 George C. Scott, Tim Curry, Michael Hordern, Timothy West,
 Eileen Atkins, Cherie Lunghi, Oliver Cotton.
 Queen Elizabeth Hall: Sunday 19 February at 3.00 pm.
 Adults £2.50. Children under fourteen £1.50.

STAN TRACY QUARTET

Under the Wood. Stan Tracy's Jazz Quartet. 01-928 3191.
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Queen Elizabeth Hall

Wednesday 22 Feb 7.45 pm
 Thursday 23 Feb 7.45 pm
 Friday 24 Feb 7.45 pm
 Saturday 25 Feb 7.45 pm
 Sunday 26 Feb 7.45 pm
 Monday 27 Feb 7.45 pm
 Tuesday 28 Feb 7.45 pm
 Wednesday 29 Feb 7.45 pm
 Thursday 30 Feb 7.45 pm
 Friday 31 Feb 7.45 pm

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

INTERNATIONAL CANOE EXHIBITION: The British have a worldwide reputation for building canoes and kayaks and the British firms of Pyralis and Gaybo will both be exhibiting their latest crafts. Events include the final of the International knock-out indoor slalom competition, with the two world champions Richard Fox and Elizabeth Sharmen taking part. Visitors can go canoeing and kayaking and see films about all white water sports. National Sports Centre, Crystal Palace, London SE19 7TB (0131). Today, 10am-6pm; tomorrow, 9.30am-5.30pm. Adults £2; children aged under 16, £1.

BOAT AND CARAVAN SHOW: For the more energetic holiday-maker. Boats range from sailboats to 40ft motor cruisers and narrowboats; caravans include four models on public show for the first time; and camping equipment and accessories come in the latest shapes and sizes. There is also advice on where to go and how to book. National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham (021 780 2516). Today and tomorrow, 11am-7pm; Mon-Fri, 11am-9pm. Adults £2.20; children and pensioners £1.20.

RUGBY UNION: England meet Ireland at Twickenham with both teams seeking their first win of the season. England will be anxious to erase the memory of a disappointing performance against Scotland at Murrayfield, while Ireland have made several changes after defeats by Wales and France. Live coverage on BBC1, Grandstand, from 2.50pm, with at 5.05pm highlights of today's other international in which Wales play France, the favourites for the championship, in Cardiff.

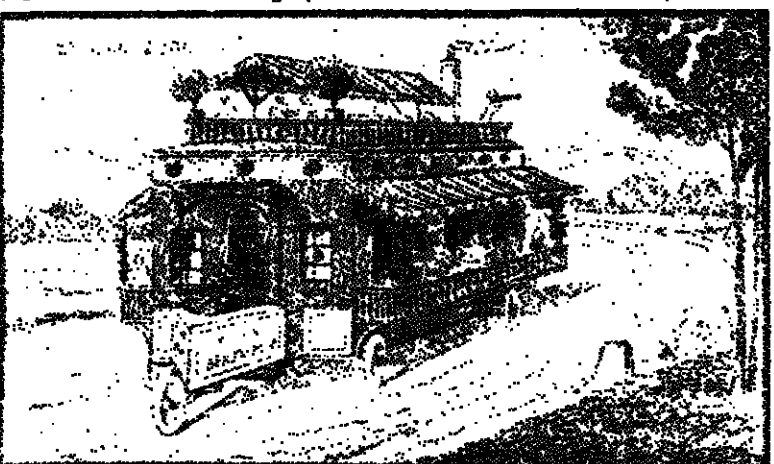
CUP FOOTBALL: The FA Cup reaches the fifth round with several unfancied teams in with an excellent chance of progressing further. The list includes Watford at home to Brighton, conquerors of Liverpool; Oxford United, who have enjoyed some excellent cup results this season, against Sheffield Wednesday; and Derby County v Norwich City. The sixth round draw can be heard on Radio 2, Mon, at 12.30pm.

Tomorrow

ONE PAIR OF EYES: The first subject of a series of personal films is Beryl Cook, the artist known for her paintings of round women doing anything from playing bowls to stripping. She regards her art as entirely without a message, merely getting down on canvas incidents which amuse and interest her. She lives with her husband, a car salesman, in Plymouth, the city which has provided the setting for most of her pictures. BBC2, 8.05-8.35pm.

Monday

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY: On tour to Newcastle upon Tyne for six weeks. Productions include *Twelfth Night* from



On the road: How the French saw the caravan of the future. The Caravan and Boat Show begins today

today until Feb 25. Comedy of Errors, Measure for Measure, Julius Caesar, Henry VIII, and, in the Gulbenkian Studio from Feb 27, *Life's a Dream*, *Volpone*, *The Time of Your Life* and *A New Way to Pay Old Debts*. Company includes Peggy Mount, Gemma Jones, Zoh Wrenmaker, Daniel Massey, John Thew, Emrys James, Miles Anderson, Richard Griffiths. Theatre Royal (0632 322061) and Gulbenkian Studio (0632 322974), Newcastle upon Tyne. From today until Mar 31.

NORTH: Seamus Finnegan's new play is an examination of Anglo-Irish relations "in a European and East-West context". Julia Pascal directs Philip Bird, Mike Dowling, Aviva Goldkorn, Michael McKnight. Cockpit Theatre, Gateforth Street, London NW8 (402 5081). Previews today and tomorrow at 7.30pm. Opens Wed at 7.30pm, until Mar 11, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm.

THE IMPACT OF CABLE: Tonight's *Panorama* is devoted to an examination by Christopher Dunkley, television critic of the *Financial Times*, of the new generation of cable television. With government approval for an expansion of the network, several towns will soon have the choice of an extra four stations and in a year 11 new franchise holders will be providing 20 to 30 channels in selected areas. Dunkley's report includes a look at existing cable in Britain and the United States. BBC1, 8.10-9pm.

Tuesday

EARLY SPRING BLOOMS: The Royal Horticultural Society's first show of the year includes carnations, mahonias, heathers and other winter flowering plants that help give colour in the garden this year round. The competition is for flowering ornamental trees and shrubs, while the show covers spring bulbs, orchids, greenhouses plants and other February blooms. Royal Horticultural Society, Viceroy Road, London SW1 (834 4333). Today, 11am-7pm; admission 90p. Tomorrow, 10am-5pm.

ROYAL CAST-OFFS: A sale of fine costume, embroidery and textiles includes a nightcap of George III's, a Royalist garter woven with the phrase "God Bless P.C." and down with the Rump and clothes that hung in the cupboard of Queen Victoria. Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (581 2231), at 2pm.

PAINTINGS, POLITICS AND PORTER: Exhibition about Samuel Whitbread, the son of the founder of Whitbread's brewery (see page 11).

ARLOTT AT 70: In conversation with Tony Lewis, John Arlott marks his seventieth birthday by looking back on some of the less publicized episodes of his life, including his attempts to enter Parliament as a Liberal, his sacking from an evening newspaper while entertaining the troops in Korea, and the tragic loss of his son in a car crash. Radio 4, 4.10-4.40pm.



Spring on the air: Pippa Guard in *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady* (ITV, Wednesday)

A STING IN THE TALE: Murder mystery by Brian Clevens and Dennis Spooner. Cast headed by Jack Douglas and Richard Kay, directed by Hugh Goldie. Theatre Royal, Windsor (85 53888). Opens today at 8pm, until Mar 10, Mon-Sat at 8pm; matinee Thurs (not Feb 23) at 2.30pm, Sat at 4.45.

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE: Revival of the Tennessee Williams play, with Sheila Gish as Blanche (see page 17).

THE BRITISH ROCK AND POP AWARDS: Presentation of the "Oscars" of the British record industry to the performers that have been voted favourites of the year by readers of the *Daily Mirror*. There will be performances from Bonnie Tyler, Freeze, Modern Romans, Slade and The Flying Pickets and the ceremony, introduced by David Jensen and Sarah Kennedy, comes live from the Lyceum in London. BBC1, 6.50-7.40pm.

A COMING TO TERMS FOR BILLY: The last in the trilogy of plays by the Belfast writer Graham Reid, following the fortunes of the Martin family in that city as Billy's father, Norman, returns with his English woman, Mavis, and Billy plans to take the two little girls back to England. With Kenneth Branagh as Billy, James Ellis as Norman, Gwenn Taylor and Julia Dearden. BBC1, 9.25-10.50pm.

Wednesday

CASKETS TO CASTERS: A German carved ivory casket only 5 1/2in long is among the objects of virtu for sale. The large English silver section encompasses canteens of cutlery, sauce-turens, teapots, sugar casters and the large George III engraved two-handled cup and cover made by William Stroud in 1802. Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (839 9060) at 11am.

STUKA PILOT: Among a large collection of Nazi items in a collectors' sale is an iron Cross citation to Germany's most decorated air ace, Stuka pilot Hans Ulrich Rudel who destroyed 500 Red Army tanks and a Soviet battleship. Hitler's signature helps price the citation at about £5,000. Among other ephemera,

Richard Nixon's signature prices a paper napkin from a New York hotel at £20. Also photographs, barrel organs, bygonnes and theatre material. Phillips, Blenheim Street, London W1 (629 6602) at noon.

THE COUNTRY DIARY OF AN EDWARDIAN LADY: Pippa Guard plays Edith Holden, the Warwickshire schoolteacher whose nature diary, compiled in 1906, became an unexpected bestseller 70 years later. The 12-part series explores both the character of Edith and the world she lived in and each programme will be a celebration of one month, seen from her point of view. All TV regions, 7-7.30pm.

MOONFLIGHT: J. Meade Falkner's famous tale of smuggling and adventure in nineteenth century Dorset in a new six-part dramatization for television. With David Daker as the landowner vowing vengeance as he buries his only child, and Adam Godley as young John Trenchard, who comes to live with him and strikes up a lifetime's friendship. BBC1, 5.10-5.40pm.

Thursday

TIMEPIECES: Highlights in a sale of watches and clocks include a gold and blue enamel watch made in London in 1793 and bearing the cypher of Catherine the Great of Russia. It was probably commissioned for presentation by her to an ambassador or dignitary and is expected to make £4,000-£5,000. However, an unusual eight-day pocket chronometer made by Mr Frodsham of South Molton Street in 1915 should make the top price (estimate £12,000-£18,000). Sotheby's, 8 George Street, London W1 (493 8060) at 11am and 2.30pm.

CUTTING EDGE: A sale of arms and armour ranging from ancient weapons to modern 12-gauge shotguns includes a superb presentation sword given to Major Somerset Calhorne, 8th Hussars, after the Crimean War in which he was ADC to the commander, Lord Raglan. Among other Calhorne memorabilia is a book of letters in which he accused Cardigan of retreating while the Light Brigade was still charging; Cardigan successfully sued (the group is estimated at £4,000).

Phillips, Blenheim Street, London W1 (629 6602) at 2pm.

CARPETS FOR COLLECTORS: Several of the carpets and rugs up for auction will be hung on walls, not thrown on floors. A semneh rug with herati pattern executed in a delicate palette should fetch £5,500-£6,500 while a fakhro kazak rug with bold geometric patterns on tomato-red ground may command £3,000-£3,500. Prices rise for such star lots as a Teheran carpet in excellent condition, estimated at £12,000-£16,000. Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (839 9060) at 2.30pm.

A PART OF LIFE: A television documentary about Dr Sheila Cassidy, who found herself caught up in the bloodshed of a military coup in Chile and faced torture and the threat of death. She is now the medical director of St Luke's Hospital in Plymouth, where she helps the terminally ill to face death with dignity. Channel 4, 6.30-7pm.

Friday

ENGLISH FURNITURE: Solid pieces of oak for sale range from a Charles II chest made around 1670, which should go for between £400



At the mike: John Arlott in 1948 and 1980. A radio programme marks his seventieth birthday (Tuesday)

At Home



Photography

Pleasure in store, but keep it dark

Waiting for the return of film and prints from mass-process laboratories can be frustrating, and the results disappointing. Producing your own pictures, on the other hand, can give great pleasure as anyone who has watched an image come to life in a developing tray will know.

The first requirement for setting up your own darkroom is space. You will need a room or corner of a room which can be blacked out and afford enough space at the very least for you to lay out an enlarger and three developing trays. It also needs to have, or be close to, supplies of electricity and water.

Unless your are fortunate enough to have a spare room (or access to someone else's) that fits the bill, you will probably have to convert your kitchen or bathroom. If one of these is large, your best plan may be to build a light-tight "cupboard" in one corner where your equipment can be laid out permanently.

Assuming that your darkroom space is not too restricted, basic to smooth operation is the principle of the "wet" bench and "dry" bench. You will save yourself a lot of annoyance if you keep an area free from dishes, water and containers where prints and film can be trimmed and cut.

It is quickest to work in line, which means usually that the enlarger will be on the same bench as processing dishes for developer, stop-bath and fix. This also implies a nearby electricity supply. It could be worth your life to run an extension lead attached to a flat four-socket adaptor from a wall socket in a dry area, finally fixing the adaptor to the wall a foot above the level of the wet bench.

On the subject of electricity, a word or two about safelighting. Amber safelighting used in black and white printing can be quite expensive, but does not need to be. A 15-watt amber-lacquered safelight bulb provides sufficient illumination for a small darkroom. Alternatively, small detachable wall-mounted units made by Paterson last only about £1.50.

Going upmarket, excellent fluorescent safelights by Encapsulate with double-pull switching mechanisms in a single or double baton can be obtained at special equipment dealers. Prices range from £20 to £60 depending on size.

Now for the equipment. At the top of your shopping list will be the enlarger. An enlarger is only as good as its lens, and this is usually bought separately. Fortunately the lens does not have to be expensive to be adequate or even good.

An EL Nikkor f4 lens at £40 performs as well as a Schneider Componon at double the price. The even cheaper EL Omegar f3.5 gives adequate results for £14.

The enlarger itself should be solidly constructed. Check this by sliding the head to the top to see how shaky the column is. Enlargers heads come either in diffused light colour head or direct-light condenser heads. Arguably, sharper black and white prints can be achieved with a condenser head, but as this also tends to magnify every speck of dust or scratch, most photographers prefer to use colour heads for black and white photography.

Smaller enlargers for average amateur use are priced between £50 and £100, the top of the range, professional-class models from £200 to £600. Good makes include Krokus, Meopta, LPL, Gnome, Durst, De Vere, Phillips and Fujimoto. Adding a timer, £16 to £30, enables accurate repeat printing.

Other essential items are: ● Plastic film tank and spirals, £5. ● Changing bag (a light-tight bag with armholes for loading film on to spirals for use in your darkroom) is not completely light-tight, £4.50. ● Thermometer, £3. ● Processing dishes, set of three, £5. ● Lure measuring jug, £1.50. ● Funnel, £1. ● Collapsible storage bottles, £2.50 to £4 each. ● Print tongs, £2.

No essential, but useful time-savers if you have money to spare are: ● Durst UT100 film-drying cabinet (detachable wall-mounted), £70. ● Photax dish heater, £8. ● Photax resin-coated paper dryer, £34.

If this list seems a little daunting, Paterson and Durst make up complete kits from £70 to £120. Finally, add £20 to budget for chemicals and paper.

Roy Cuckow Darkroom equipment including kits are available from TECONO, St Peter's Square, Manchester (branches also in London, Birmingham and Bristol) and by mail order from Jessop of Leicester, Photo Centre, Hinchday Road, Leicester LE3 0TE (0533 20461).

Next a step-by-step guide to developing and printing.

Collecting

Be it ever so humble, it is still folk art

From the unpretentious dealer in a red Vermont barn to the prestige salerooms of Madison Avenue, the American antiques trade knows both the value and the decorative appeal of its native folk art. It is a decorative rhetoric which speaks of humble beginnings, of settlers from many different European origins, of Puritan beliefs in thrift, ingenuity and hard work, and of the courage and hope of those early communities.

It is a democratic style which, while it cannot be divorced from the inherited skills of English needlewomen, German or Norwegian furniture painters or other whittler and carver ancestors, is far from the

European court styles. The first Americans had fled from the burdens imposed by European royalty, and it is perhaps still in support of that early independence that such great American families as Rockefeller, Ford and Dupont have made some of the finest collections of American folk art.

An exhibition of 130 items from the Museum of American Folk Art in New York is now open at the Barbican Centre; the objects on display vary from weather-vanes and hunting decoys to painted furniture and quilts, all dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. While many will enjoy the clear and simple beauties of the exhibits, relishing a reminder of the history of the Mayflower or the Boston Tea Party, the show also begs an important question: if this is popular work, derived from traditions handed down by immigrants from Europe, especially from Britain, then what has become of that legacy here at home?

Many people in Britain already have in their collections items from subjects which, taken together, would amount to an English folk art - samplers, quilts, iron doorstops, copper pans, treen, woodwork shop embroideries, slipware or Staffordshire figures. But such an accumulation of objects does not somehow add up to a similar stylistic cohesion when seen as "country furniture", or even as a local (most notably, Welsh) genre.

There are a few, isolated characters who have documented English popular art - including barge art, fairings, kitchen utensils and street furniture such as inn and shop signs - in an effort to recall aspects of rural life as they themselves remembered it before the First World War. Enid Marx and Margaret Lambert's two books on the subject, published in 1946 and 1951, are among the most recent; the designer Enid Marx was a friend and contemporary of such potters and textile designers as Bernard Leach, Michael Cardew, Phyllis Barron and Dorothy Larcher who were trying in their own work to resuscitate almost forgotten crafts.

One person who has championed British folk art is the Hungarian-born art dealer



Pride of the fleet: Admiral Lord Exmouth, an English watercolour of about 1815, from the Kalman collection

Andras Kalman. In 1980 he opened Crane Folk Art and Americana, a gallery in Sloane Street, London SW1, which sells all manner of English and American folk art. He has also put together a fascinating collection of English naive paintings, dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, which, more than any text book, shows the true background to the painted furniture, cow creamers, shop signs (including a magnificent set of pawnbroker's balls), painted milk churns and brass freemason's boxes which are to be found in the gallery.

The British were less puritanical than their American cousins in their choice of subject-matter, and Kalman's paintings show such pastimes as bear-baiting and cock-fighting as well as matters of pride such as prize bulls, hounds, cocks and horses. At Crane Folk Art, the most expensive painting might be around £8,000, while £1,200 would buy an imposing portrait, painted on tin, of a

man (not a gentleman!) in a magnificent top hat. What is vital to the value of such pieces is that they have not been restored or even, generally, cleaned, and that, in the case of paintings, the work is in its original frame.

Andras Kalman says that folk art is one of the few areas in collecting where all you need is a discerning eye: it is an art which is refreshing and amusing, with a stunning simplicity of form that can rival twentieth-century abstract sculpture. For the collector, it is an area where new combinations of object, material and colour can be used to create a totally individual look.

Isabelle Anscombe "American Folk Art: Expressions of a New Spirit" is at the Barbican Art Gallery, Silk Street, London EC2 (033 4141) until April 1. Tues-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 12-6pm. Admission £1 adults, 50p children, students, senior citizens, disabled, jobless.

Isabelle Anscombe is executive editor of *Antique Dealer's* and *Collectors Guide*.

Out and About/Steam railways

BR's scenic Highland fling

This summer, for the first time for 20 years, steam trains will be in regular service on the West Highland line in Scotland, providing a 41-mile journey from Fort William to Mallaig through some of the finest scenery on the British Rail network.

Much has been made, and rightly, of the efforts of the bands of volunteers in rescuing branch lines threatened with closure and restoring steam to them. Less has been said about British Rail's own contribution towards keeping steam alive.

Ever since that dark year of 1968 which saw the official end of steam working on BR, enthusiasts have been campaigning to get steam back on to the national rail system. With no disrespect to the private lines, most run only for a few miles and can offer only a brief taste of the merits of steam.

Negotiations between BR and the owners of surviving steam locomotives proved fruitful and BR agreed to make a number of secondary routes available for steam as long as essential facilities, such as turntables and water, could be provided. Trial runs were held to test the market.

The response was encouraging; any steam services in which it was involved should aim to pay their way. That meant running the trains on a virtually a commercial basis and selling tickets not only to a limited number of railway buffs but appealing to as wide a public as possible.

The first regular service to be introduced was along the Cumbrian coast from Carnforth to Salford, via Grange-over-Sands.

BR supplied the coaches and hired the engines from private owners, thus setting the pattern for future ventures. This was followed by the Cumbrian Mountain Express, again starting from Carnforth but heading southeast before taking the magnificent Settle route to Carlisle.

and back but the service was later extended to Scarborough, so that holidaymakers could travel by steam to the seaside.

With Scarborough Corporation backing the scheme by putting up the money for a turntable, the Scarborough Spa Express has become a popular feature of the Yorkshire summer, hauling well-filled trains of people prepared to pay a £2 premium over the normal fare just to experience the smell and sound of steam.

The locomotives have been provided by the National Railway Museum, the LMS side Railway Preservation Group and the Steamtown railway museum at Carnforth. Last summer seven locos took it in turns to pull the Scarborough Spa Express, including the Princess Pacific Class Duchess of Hamilton, the Southern's City of Wells and the last steam

engine built for BR, the Evening Star.

Crews are recruited from BR staff, who have been only too happy to volunteer for steam duty. For the older hands it has been a chance to re-polish skills long since abandoned, such as being a fireman; while special courses have been held to instruct younger men on the subtleties of steam.

Anyone wishing to go the whole way with the Scarborough Spa Express and then back again will have covered 212 miles, which should be enough to satisfy most appetites. But if quality is preferred to quantity, then the Cumbrian Mountain Express has the edge; and if BR succeeds in its plan to close the Settle-Carlisle line, this summer might be the last chance to travel along it behind a steam locomotive.

Peter Waymark

Timetables

The Fort William to Mallaig service will be worked by former London Midland Scottish (LMS) Black Five class locomotives and the first run is on Bank Holiday Monday, May 30. There will be another on May 30. Trains will then run every Wednesday from July 11 to August 22; every Thursday, from July 12 to August 23; and on Sundays from July 1 to September 8. Further details from BR at Fort William Station (0387 3791).

The Scarborough Spa Express is likely to follow the same timetable as last year and run on Tuesdays and Thursdays from mid-July to the beginning of September; and on

Sundays from the end of July to the end of August. Further details from BR at York Station (0904 53022).

The Cumbrian Mountain Express will run on two days a week from the third week in June to the second week in September. Details from the Steam Railway Locomotive Operators Association, 104 Birmingham Road, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9BW. The association also runs Saturday excursions throughout the year on BR routes. The February programme includes a trip along the Settle-Carlisle line, as well as a Welsh Marches tour from Chester to Newport.



Getting up steam: Southern Railway's City of Wells, one of the locomotives used to pull the Scarborough Spa Express

CHRISTIE'S
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8 King Street
London SW1

Next week's sales

22nd at 11.00 am
English and Foreign
Silver and Objects of
Vertu

22nd at 10.30 am and 2.30 pm
Stamps of Australasia

23rd at 11.00 am
Fine English Furniture

23rd at 2.30 pm
Fine Eastern Textiles,
Rugs and Carpets

24th at 10.30 am
Old Master Paintings

Information on these sales on
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contact:
85 Old Brompton Road,
London SW7
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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Mercantile takes off for the City of the future

What began last summer as a few straws in the wind is now rapidly emerging as a haystack. Yesterday two portentous deals indicated the shape of the City to come. Mercantile House, the ambitious group led by the most energetic Mr John Barkshire, made an agreed offer of £29m for Alexander's Discount, the third biggest discount house. In the afternoon, the mighty National Westminster revealed that it proposes to buy a stake in Bisgood Bishop, the stockjobbers.

In a general sense, neither move is a surprise. Mercantile House's aspirations have not been the City's best kept secret, and it was inevitable that the clearing banks, linchpins of the City, should show an interest in direct securities trading. But the demonstration effect on other City operators will not be lost.

For what are firms positioning themselves? Mr Barkshire has a firm answer. He believes - and Mr Jeremy Hardie, Alexander's vice-chairman and chief strategist apparently agrees - that the City firm of the future will embrace all elements of the securities business: market making, distribution to customers, overseas markets, and sufficient capital.

Hidden profits

Purchasing Alexander's is the first staging post along a road on which the next stopping place is a stockbroker. Mercantile has the overseas capacity through Opco in New York, and will provide the capital to fuel expansion - even if by the liberal issuing of paper. Alexander will bring to the recipe the necessary market making skills, and a stockbroker will add the customers. The final step is 24 hour global trading, and it is not coincidental that Mr Barkshire is off to Tokyo today to pursue negotiations with Japanese stockbrokers.

This policy is based on two assumptions. The first is that securities houses of the kind already familiar on Wall Street are also the future in London. The second is that time is short (between September and December last year Mr Barkshire decided that this was the way forward) and that building up one's own team is difficult. Whole firms must be bought in single gulps.

Not everybody, however, would necessarily agree with these assumptions. The London institutional background is completely different from New York, and that will inevitably guide the shape of the new market firms. Alexander's is a prime example. The Bank of England appears reluctant for the moment, to allow the present balance of competition in the discount market to be upset. Alexander will therefore have to keep its money market operations separate from the other activities, such as Eurobonds, it may want to undertake. The Bank frowns equally on Mercantile pumping money into the discount market through Alexander's and on Alexander's taking capital out of the market to fund new ventures.

There is also the little matter of Alexander's hidden profits and reserves. It seems that Alexander's and Mercantile are considering arrangements similar to those followed by Clive Discount and Sime Darby and by Guinness Mahon and Guinness Peat. But in this new, open and competitive age is that right? As it is, Alexander's revealed that its fully disclosed capital and reserves were £23.9m, rather

more than the £18.7m glimpsed in the last accounts.

But Mercantile is undoubtedly taking a medium term view, and these technical difficulties can be resolved. Of far greater concern to Mercantile, its competitors and to the authorities, is the gilt market. The message from both of yesterday's announcements is that single capacity is dead. That in turn threatens the commission income of the top dozen or so gilt-edged brokers.

The Bank of England is not alarmed by the prospect of new forces entering the gilt market. Its vital concern is that the market remains liquid and efficient - code words for ensuring that the Government can always sell its debt. If the cosy combination of the Government Broker (what is his future?), Wedd Durlacher and Akroyd & Smithers is to end, will the likes of Mercantile House be able to take their place?

Mr Barkshire is clearly signalling that he will be only too delighted to give it a try. There is equally little doubt that the big American bond houses are itching to enter the market, either directly in competition with London houses or in alliance with them. The authorities may be ambiguous in their attitude towards American involvement, attracted by the prospect of the extra liquidity they would provide, nervous that it might disappear as fast as it came if, for example, expansion by a Labour government convinced them the gilt game was over. They are, however, more definite on their views about investor protection, a sensitive matter since the British government bond market, unlike American, is still important for private investors.

Mercantile House and others who take the same route may find, that the authorities become keen on the practical if invisible separations between the parts of these new empires. Being the pioneer - if that is indeed the mantle on Mr Barkshire's shoulders - can also have its price, in two senses. One is the difficulty of constructing a unified market making and securities trading those to the authorities' satisfaction. The other is the literal cost of buying the next wing of the edifice.

Who next?

Mercantile's offer of 17 shares for every 12 of Alexander's ordinary values Alexander at 576p a share, a premium of about 25 per cent over the then market price. It values Alexander's in total at £29m. Such a price seems a fair compromise between the uneven nature of discount house profits and the uses to which Mercantile wants to put Alexander's. Much will depend on how fast Mercantile and Alexander can deploy the latter's market making skills to the whole group's advantage.

Such problems notwithstanding, the pace and pressure of events now seems to prompt one question: who next? Mr Barkshire's vision of Mercantile House may not be the only model, but variations on the theme are plentiful and plausible. After several years of hesitation and speculation the City is seeing a new breed of market operators - big, wide ranging, well capitalized, aggressive, and British. The test will be whether these new British creations can sell their skills in other international centres.

NatWest seeks approval for link with leading jobbers

By Philip Robinson

National Westminster, one of the Big Four street banks, is poised to buy up to 29.9 per cent of Bisgood, Bishop, London's fifth largest stockbroker and the leading market maker in unlisted securities. It would be the first stake taken by a London clearing bank in a member firm of the Stock Exchange.

Bisgood, whose profits soared last year from £767,000 to £2.4m after losses in 1981, is likely to show record profits when its year ends in April. The proposed link needs the consent of the Stock Exchange. Once this has been obtained subject to unspecified conditions the proposals will be put to shareholders of Bisgood.

The reforms were promised by the Stock Exchange in return for the Government dropping its restrictive practices case against its rule book.

Just hours before the NatWest/Bisgood link emerged officially, Mercantile House

"with a view to NatWest acquiring a substantial interest in the equity of Bisgood."

The link is the clearest evidence yet of the radical changes in the City since the Stock Exchange agreed to adopt a more open policy. This was designed to allow member firms to increase in size and compete for international securities business which it had been losing to the huge American investment banks.

The last published accounts show that control of Bisgood lies with five institutional shareholders and three main board directors, Bricomin In-

Holdings, which chairman Mr John Barkshire is building into a major force in the international securities industry, announced £29m takeover bid for Alexander's Discount.

It was the first time in 10 years that an outsider had been allowed by the Bank of England to own a discount house. Observers said it represented an example of the relaxed attitude the Bank is taking to the demolition of traditional City barriers. The Bank is charged with the responsibility of overseeing the City reforms.

The last published accounts show that control of Bisgood lies with five institutional shareholders and three main board directors, Bricomin In-

vestments (linked with British and Commonwealth Shipping), Williams and Glyn's and Legal and General Assurance own 9.8 per cent each. London Trust and Witan Investment each have 6 per cent. Mr Ed Fuxley, Mr Brian Winterlood and Mr Brian Cavill between them control 11.4 per cent.

The presence of the British and Commonwealth stake had sparked rumours that Exco International and rivals of Mercantile House were involved in talks with Bisgood.

Under Stock Exchange rules any one outside firm may own a maximum of 29.9 per cent of a member firm and can put two executive directors on the board.

P & O sets sights on Cunard

By Jonathan Clare

Mr Jeffrey Sterling, chairman of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, threw down a fighting challenge yesterday to take over Cunard's cruise fleet if Trafalgar House's bid for P&O fails.

But Mr Eric Parker, Trafalgar's chief executive, laughed off the proposal: "It's a complete flight of fancy - he must have been daydreaming."

A merger of the two fleets would create an all-British fleet which would lead the world with 12 ships (seven from P&O and five from Cunard) headed by P&O's new £100m Royal Princess, launched in Helsinki yesterday, and Cunard's Queen Elizabeth 2.

Mr Sterling's offer was made at the launch of the Royal Princess and comes just ahead of the Monopolies Commission's investigation into Trafalgar's £290m bid for P&O. The



Jeffrey Sterling: a fighting challenge - or "a daydream"

investigation was extended until February 20 and the commission's report is expected to be passed to Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, on Monday.

Trafalgar has been reapprais-

ing its strategy should it decide to bid again for P&O if it is allowed to do so by the Monopolies Commission. Since the bid was made Mr Sterling has become chairman and the share price has risen from a low of 107p to 278p, the high for the year. Trafalgar has shipped from its high of 226p to 207p, partly because of adverse market sentiment towards the Scott Lithgow deal.

Yesterday Mr Sterling promised that if Trafalgar did come back he would "give Trafalgar a run for its money."

● The Royal Princess, P&O's new flagship, will be named formally by the Princess of Wales in Southampton in nine months (Michael Baily writes from Helsinki). The occasion was presaged here by a ceremony conducted in the Arctic winter with a bucket of warm water flown over specially from Southampton Docks.

Collier staff offered 20% stake

By Our Financial Staff

Employees of Collier Holdings, the new company which controls the John Collier menswear chain are to be offered a 20 per cent stake in the business. The chain was acquired from Hanson Trust for £47.5m in a management buyout.

Yesterday the managing director, Mr David Hall, said he was confident that the offer would be oversubscribed by the 1,800 employees. If the employee shares are fully taken up, the directors who originally bought the company with a loan from the Midland Bank will have 8 per cent and the institutions 72 per cent.

The prospectus to be sent to employees on Monday shows a forecast loss of £2.3m for the year to June. But unaudited profits projections for the next two years show profits of £1.15m and £3.75m respectively. Mr Hall said these projections already looked conservative. He said they were based on sales of £160 per sq ft, but that two refurbished shops were already taking £220 per sq ft.

This rate of improvement would quickly take the group towards the £300 per sq ft which analysts believe to be achieved by rivals like the Burton Group.

John Collier has 250 shops which makes it similar in size to Burton's menswear side and to J Hepworth.

Reuters appoints brokers

By Graham Searjeant

Reuters, the financial information group, has appointed Cazenove and Hoare Govett to act as stockbrokers for its planned flotation. The appointment is one of the richest prizes in the stockbroking world. The flotation is expected to value Reuters at more than £1 billion.

For Hoare Govett, it marks a considerable double triumph. Only a few weeks ago the firm was appointed a lead broker for the even more prestigious launch of British Telecom, which is expected to have a stock market value of up to £8 billion.

Inmos turns down £45m AT&T bid

By John Lawless

Inmos, the state-financed computer chip manufacturer, has rejected a £45m take-over bid from American Telephone & Telegraph (AT&T).

Sir Malcolm Wilcox, the Inmos chairman, met Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, on Thursday to explain why.

Sir Malcolm claimed the bid grossly undervalued the company, adding that it was not in Britain's strategic interest to see control of its only dedicated standard chipmaker going into foreign, and particularly American, hands.

Inmos believes that it is worth more than £200m - particularly as it has finally moved into profits. It lost £14m on a turnover of £30m last year. But Sir Malcolm stressed that the industry's inherent high fixed costs mean that handsome returns were achieved only after passing a certain point.

That turning point, he argued, was reached in the last quarter of 1983. Profits of just a few tens of thousands of pounds are likely to rapidly accelerate in 1984 - especially because the current high demand for semi-conductors has created severe shortages of advanced micro-processors, into which it is now moving.

The Government has been urging GEC to take up the running of Inmos from AT&T. Computer-maker Sinclair is thought to be interested, but would have difficulty financing bid on its own.

Inmos would like to take a gentler path, ending with a stock market flotation.

The Department of Trade and Industry has been told by AT&T that it would invest £70m in Britain at the Inmos plant at Newport. But Inmos has emphasized that this money would be to develop AT&T's other interests, and not Inmos' products.

A Department of Trade and Industry spokeswoman yesterday would only say that ministers were being kept informed by the British Technology Group, which holds its 75 per cent stake.

BAe seeks further £16m of state aid

By Andrew Cornelius

British Aerospace, which is anxiously awaiting a government decision to approve £437m funding for a new European Airbus A320 project, is seeking a further £16m towards the cost of a £130m programme to build an experimental European jet fighter.

The plea for additional funding for a combat aircraft incorporating the latest technology comes after the decision by West Germany's Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm to pull out of the project. Details of the decision are revealed in the latest edition of the *International Defence Review*.

British Aerospace was unable to confirm officially yesterday that the West German company had withdrawn from the programme, seen as the forerunner of a planned five-nation collaboration on a new generation of jet fighters. However, senior aerospace sources suggest that Messerschmitt declined to

commit funds to the project because it was unsure about the West German Government's plans for future aircraft development.

The project to build the new jet will now be funded almost entirely by Britain. The Government is being asked to increase its contribution from £64m to £80m, with the balance of the cost being met by the British aerospace industry and a small contribution from the Italian Government.

The new aircraft includes the latest aircraft controls and advanced cockpit and electronics technology. The Royal Air Force has been pressing to get the new jet off the ground in a bid to bring forward the development of a new generation of jets which will be required by European air forces in the 1990s. Britain's dominant position in the project should lead to valuable orders

Dow makes headway

New York (AP - Dow Jones). - Shares continue to make headway in moderate early trading on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Index was up by 5 1/2 points. Advances were slightly ahead of declines.

Dorchester Gas Corp was up 1 1/2 after a delayed opening for an announcement. It has reached an agreement with Damsco Oil on a proposed tender offer for part of the company. Damsco was trading at 7 1/2, unchanged.

Nashua Corp. fell 1 1/4 to 21 1/2. It plans to sell one million shares of its common stock.

● The US gross national product, after adjusting for inflation, rose by a revised 4.9 per cent at a seasonally-adjusted annual rate in the fourth quarter of last year, the US Commerce Department reported in Washington. This is slower than in the third quarter.

STOCK EXCHANGES

SE 100 Index: 1039.0 up 4.0 day's high 1039.0, low 1035.0

FT Index: 816.2 down 1.7

FT Gilt: 82.73 down 0.10

FT All Share: 491.99 up 1.07

Sainsbury's N/A

Datastream USM Leaders

Index: 105.92 up 0.63

New York: Dow Jones

Industrial Average: 1159.76 up 4.82

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones

Index: 9,925.07 up 27.92

Hongkong: Hang Seng

Index: 1094.87 up 10.81

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4505 up 55pts

Index 82.5 up 0.4

DM 3.8525 up 0.0225

FF 11.97 up 0.0650

Yen 338.50 up 1.75

Dollar Index 128.7 up 0.3

DM 2.6812 up 0.0042

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.4490

Dollar DM 2.6812

INTERNATIONAL

ECU £0.578016

SDR £0.727677

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):

am \$382 pm \$382.15

close \$383.50 (\$264.26)

New York (latest): \$384.25

Kruggerand (per coin):

\$394.50-396 (\$272-273)

Sovereigns (new):

\$89.50-90.50 (\$61.75-62.50)

*Excludes VAT

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9 1/2
Discount market loans week fixed 9 1/8-9
3 month interbank 9 1/8-9 1/8

Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9 1/8-10/16
3 month DM 5 1/8-5 3/4
3 month FF 15 1/2-15 3/4

US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9/2
Treasury long bond 9 1/8-100

Bid for Maynards fails

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Lewis Cartier's part-bid for Maynards, the sweet, toy and newsgames business, has failed. The former butcher's roundsman who built up Cartier Superfoods before selling out to Tesco, wanted to acquire control of Maynards to create Britain's first national chain of toyshops. But yesterday he announced that ordinary shareholders had accepted his offer for only 39.7 per cent of the shares.

Yesterday he said that he had devoted himself entirely to the Maynards bid and had nothing

else currently planned. "You can put me down as an unemployed entrepreneur. But I'll be back."

He blamed the failure to win partly on being distracted at a critical stage in the bid by allegations of unpaid debts by a debt-collecting agency. Yesterday he said these allegations had subsequently been withdrawn and he would be issuing a writ on Monday.

Maynards' advisers, Baring Brothers, said they thought Mr Cartier had been defeated on price.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

A good week for the pound which closed at \$1.4505, helped during the week by reports that Middle East hostilities could threaten oil supplies.

Sterling's close was 55 points better at 1.4505 the first close above 1.45 since January 2.

Dealers said the long New York weekend had added to some late hectic activity after a reasonably quiet morning yesterday.

Although still not within

sight of its next lower chart point against the Deutsche mark, the dollar finished below the best to European currencies - DM2.6810 (DM2.6725) and FF8.26 (FF8.2415).

Sterling closed 2 1/2 pennings stronger against the Deutsche Mark at 13.8925, 6 1/2 continues up from French Francs at 11.97, 1 1/2 continues better to Swiss Francs at 3.19 and 2 1/2 Dutch cents better to the Guilder at 4.39. It also gained against the Yen

9.1% AS AT 14.2.84 WHICH IS AN EFFECTIVE ANNUAL RATE OF 9.5%

High Interest Cheque Account

The new M&G and Kleinwort Benson High Interest Cheque Account pays high interest and you have easy access to it at any time through the cheque book. There are no bank charges for this account. It provides a profitable and convenient home for money you do not need to use immediately but may want at short notice. For example, for the proceeds of an investment you have just sold while you consider the question of reinvestment. Or for cash you need for paying the larger household bills and items like school fees, tax payments and family holidays. Meanwhile you will have the comfort of knowing that your account with London's largest merchant bank, Kleinwort, Benson Limited, is secure and earning a high rate of interest.

HIGH INTEREST The account starts paying interest after your initial cheque has been cleared at a higher interest rate than is usually available on a bank deposit account; the interest accrues daily and is credited quarterly to your account without deduction of tax.

INTEREST earned on your account will vary from time to time, moving in line with the best rates available in the London Money Market for institutions with substantial sums to invest. Interest is compounded each working day. So that interest is earned on your interest and a daily rate of 9.1%, for example, is equivalent to an annual percentage rate (APR) of 9.5%. Rates will be published daily in the Financial Times.

A REGULAR INCOME If you keep at least £5,000 in your account you can have the total interest earned, or a specific amount, transferred monthly to your current account with a clearing bank.

MINIMUM DEPOSIT You can open an account with an initial deposit of £2,500 or more, but subsequent deposits can be as little as £200 and your balance can fall as low as £1,000 without losing the benefit of

the high rates of interest. The smallest cheque you can draw is £200 and this means that you should treat the account as an extension of your clearing bank current account rather than as a substitute for it. You will receive a statement every three months, showing receipts, payments, interest and the balance.

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This coupon is for personal investors. Companies, partnerships, clubs, trustees, etc., should complete the name and address section only and indicate which additional form they require. Copies of the Terms and Conditions are available on request.

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MINIMUM £2,500 PLEASE COMPLETE THIS To: M&G FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED (as agents for Kleinwort, Benson Limited) FORM IN BLOCK CAPITALS 91/99 New London Road, Chelmsford CM2 0PY. Telephone 0245 51651.

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Second name for Joint Accounts _____ Surname
Mr. Forename(s) _____
Address for correspondence _____
Daytime Tel. No. _____
Country of domicile (if not UK) _____
Post Code _____
Do you require an Automatic Withdrawal Facility? (For accounts of at least £5,000) Yes/No _____
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2. PARTNERSHIP 4. CLUB, SOCIETY, ETC.

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FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Investment

Farmers reap BES benefits

Investing in farming may not be what the Chancellor intended when he introduced the generous tax reliefs under the new Business Expansion Scheme, but that is what everyone is doing.

Latest farming scheme on offer is Formfield PLC. Unlike most of the other BES funds, this is a single company seeking to raise money under the BES scheme. Investors should be entitled to tax relief at their highest rate paid on up to £40,000 invested in a BES scheme - provided the investment gets Inland Revenue approval.

Formfield is seeking a minimum of £500,000 but expects to get as much as £8m. With most of the return from BES investment coming from the tax relief, farming is an ideal vehicle for taking advantage of this relief since the risk of losing your money is low - provided the money has been used to purchase land.

Observers believe the Chancellor may take steps in his coming Budget to exclude farming from the list of BES qualifying investments, but it seems unlikely that he would make such a move retrospective.

Minimum investment is £500. Applications must be received by April 3, 1984.

Tax on parking

Parking spaces at the office are the latest perk to attract the attention of the Inland Revenue. According to Dearden Farrow, the chartered accountant, tax inspectors are now looking closely at this fringe benefit and employers could be liable for tax on the value of their parking space.

There should, however, be a distinction between the provision of space for an employee's or director's own car, which almost certainly is caught in the tax net and the provision of space for parking the company car allocated to that employee, states Dearden Farrow. In the latter case, the space is being used by the company's property and not by the individual.

Smoking hazards

"Statistics show that more smokers than non-smokers are also drinkers. Statistically those who smoke are less likely to take care of themselves and they are even more prone." This is a piece of research quoted by Old Foundry Insurance Services justifying non-smokers' discounts on motor insurance.

Apart from the obvious dangers of lighting, handling and disposing of cigarettes when driving, there does appear to be a correlation between the smoker and the drinker," says OFIS, which offers preferential terms on motor insurance premiums for non-smokers.

Figure it out

Have you ever wondered what percentage of households have a TV set, how many students there are in Britain or what the population is overall? Wonder no more. The latest issue of the United

Kingdom in Figures is out and is available free from the Central Statistical Office. Average house prices have risen from £7,400 in 1972 to £24,800 in 1982. Life expectancy has gone up from 73.6 years for women in 1962 to 76.2 in 1982, while the number of deaths from cancer has risen from 115,000 to 130,000 over the same period, according to this useful booklet.

Holiday bait

Investors tempted by the latest discount offer from Barclays Unicorn should remember that a discount is only of value if you wanted the item anyway.

A new unit trust from Barclays Unicorn will concentrate on the leisure and entertainment industry and as a perk anyone investing £1,000 or more will be entitled to a discount on a Black Sea cruise aboard Vistafjord, Cunard's latest luxury liner. This is in addition to the discounts on Cunard cruises already available to Barclays' unitholders.

"The increase in paid holidays, the shorter working week, a trend towards earlier retirement and wider availability of labour-saving devices in the home have all influenced the growth of the leisure industry," said Mr Clive Fenn Smith of Barclays Unicorn.

Bond redemption

National Savings is repaying its 9½ per cent Savings Bonds (second issue) which were issued between December 16, 1978 and June 15, 1979, at £104 per cent this year. No further interest will be paid on the Bonds once they have matured so remember to cash them in.

Repayment forms have been sent to holders, but if you have not received one, contact the Bonds & Stock Office, Blackpool, Lancs, FY3 9YP.



JAMES HASWELL
Insurance Ombudsman

Ombudsman support

The Gower report's proposal that all insurance companies should be obliged to join the Insurance Ombudsman's Bureau has been welcomed by Mr James Souness, a former Chairman of the Association of Scottish Life Offices. He said: "I am extremely happy to see this move as the nine Scottish Life Offices joined Insurance Ombudsman Bureau en masse in 1982."

The Insurance Ombudsman is an independent arbitrator in disputes between policyholders and companies, and offers a free service to members of the public. An important point is that the

company is bound by the Ombudsman's decision, but the individual is not and retains the right to go to court in the usual way.

Another Head Start

The immensely popular Head Start in Business scheme sponsored by the Abbey National Building Society and run for young London unemployed by the Industrial Society has been extended to Nottingham.

Head Start in Business invites 17 to 22 year olds in the Nottingham area who are unemployed to put forward ideas for businesses. Ideas are selected by a panel of experts and the winner is backed by Abbey National and the county council, with practical advice from the Industrial Society.

When the scheme was run in London, nearly 250 young people came forward with ideas for starting their own business, and 20 of them have now put these ideas into action. Where appropriate, Abbey National may licence the young business person to use vacant accommodation above an Abbey Building Society branch. Cash help is also available.

Free banking

Last year more than 230,000 people realised that it was not necessary to pay bank charges and so opened an account with Yorkshire Bank. Clearly heavier charges at all banks and, particularly, the NatWest, are beginning to bite, and customers are shopping around for a better deal.

Banks which offer free services, so long as your account is kept in credit, include the Yorkshire, Williams & Glyn's, Co-op Bank (make sure you ask for an ordinary current account) and Girobank. But the latter does have the disadvantage of no overdrafts.

Discount saving

Junior savers with Leicester Building Society are being offered a range of discounts on cameras, books, cassettes, toys and sports equipment, provided a minimum of £10 is maintained in the account.

With a Moneyclub card, savers under 17 are entitled to reductions of 45 per cent on Ensign sports rackets and Haina cameras. For younger savers, there are 25 per cent discounts on the Tiny Candy range of stationery and toiletry and one year's free membership of the Pelham Puppet Club.

Generally speaking, a building society investment with tax deducted at source (not reclaimable) is not the best home for a child's money. But at the moment, the differential between the 8.25 per cent easily obtainable from building society "extra interest" account and the alternatives is not sufficiently large for the tax deduction to matter.

Area for growth

If you fancy a flutter in Singapore and Malaysia then the new unit trust from Henderson could be just the thing.

"Throughout the 1970s, the Singapore economy grew at an average of 10 per cent per annum and Malaysia at 8 per cent. These rates, which comfortably exceed those of Japan, are expected to continue well into the next decade," says Henderson the fund managers.

"The surge in manufacturing growth has been matched by the performance of the two stock markets where, over the past 10 years, the returns have been about 16 per cent better than in Japan and about 80 per cent better than on Wall Street". Minimum investment in the new fund is £500.

Investment hotline

Those who worry endlessly about their investments now have a solution to their misery. The Henderson unit trust management group has installed an investment hotline (01 673 8755) which gives its latest investment recommendations. At the moment, Henderson is using it to bring attention to its new Singapore and Malaysia trust.

You have first to sit through an account of Henderson's investment history (one of the most innovative in the market, etc) before you get to the important points. There is also a facility to leave messages. It will be interesting to see what sort of comments would-be investors leave on the ansaphone.

Start-up insurance

Richards Longstaff (Insurance) has launched a policy aimed at small businesses just beginning. Mr Gordon Avenue, a director of Richards Longstaff, said: "We looked at the likely hazards of small business start-ups and produced the cheapest possible comprehensive plan that would meet the needs."

"For example, if you were an employer in the clothing industry with plant and stock valued at £30,000 giving a gross profit value of £60,000 and six employees and you took the full scheme, the cost would be £14 a week".

Canada Life in a friendly link-up

Everybody is doing it - getting a friendly society link. Canada Life is the latest to join up with a friendly society. Lancashire and Yorkshire Assurance Society in this case, to offer the Family Investment Bond.

The appeal of friendly societies is their tax-exempt status and Canada Life is promoting this investment as suitable for those with a lump sum. The idea is that investors hand out £1,780 to Canada Life which is used to buy a

temporary annuity, the payments on which fund the regular instalments onto the 10-year friendly society scheme. Canada Life benefits in two ways. It takes a profit on the temporary annuity and then reinvests the money.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank	10 1/4%
Consolidated Crd	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Net Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgage Base Rate
7 day deposits on terms of under £10,000, 9 1/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 9 1/2%; £50,000 and over, 10%



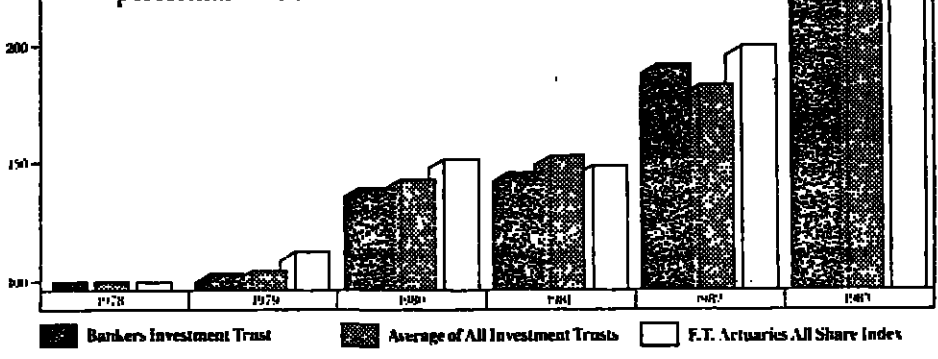
BUSINESS MIGRATION TO BEAUTIFUL WESTERN AUSTRALIA

★ Warm Mediterranean climate
★ Room to grow - ten times the size of Britain and with the population of Birmingham
★ One of the highest standards of living in the world
★ Strategically located close to the rapidly growing economies of South East Asia
Mr Brian Kusel, Executive Director, Perth Chamber of Commerce (PCC) will be visiting Britain to offer consultancy services to business people interested in migrating to Western Australia under the Australian Government's Business Migration Scheme.
Enquiries:
London, Tower Hotel
Monday 20 & Tuesday 21 February 1984
Birmingham, Holiday Inn
Wednesday 22 February 1984
Manchester, Piccadilly Hotel
Thursday 23 February 1984
Leeds, Queens Hotel
Friday 24 February 1984

The Bankers' Investment Trust PLC

Cumulative Growth in Total Return

"Our objective is to maximise shareholders' total return with increasing emphasis on capital performance."



"Highlights for the year to 31 October 1983:"

- Net asset value up 33.2% to 169½p per share
- Dividend up 5.2% to 4.16p per share
- 1 for 1 scrip issue proposed
- Total assets £68 million: 55% UK, 30% USA, 9% Japan
- Net exposure to US dollar 21% of net assets

To: The Company Secretary, The Bankers' Investment Trust, PLC, Maitland House, 2 Puddle Dock, London, EC4V 3AT.
Please send me a copy of your latest annual report.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CRESCENT JAPAN INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

Highlights from the 1983 Annual Report

- 1983 was a year of outstanding growth. Net assets increased by 70.1%, the fourth best performance in 1983 of all investment trusts monitored by the A.I.T.C.
- The emphasis on high-rated electronics and technology sectors is being progressively reduced.
- Reinvestment is being made in the consumer and capital spending sectors which are the likely beneficiaries of the large increases in production and corporate profits expected in 1984.
- Investments have been made in four companies listed on the 'over-the-counter' market.
- A capitalisation issue of four new ordinary shares of 50p each for every one held by members on the register on 26 March 1984 is proposed.
- The objective of Crescent Japan Investment Trust plc is to achieve long-term capital appreciation through investment in Japanese equities.

NEW TOKYO INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

Highlights from the 1983 Annual Report

- Further substantial progress in 1983. Net assets rose by 99.4%, the second best performance in 1983 of all investment trusts monitored by the A.I.T.C.
- A policy of profit-taking was implemented in the high technology sector.
- Reinvestment has been made in hitherto unfashionable sectors and the portfolio is now more weighted towards the retail sector.
- Small and medium sized companies in Japan are now actively upgrading their capital spending programmes.
- The recent alteration to the listing requirements for stocks traded on the 'over-the-counter' market and the second section exchanges should widen the investment opportunities available to the company.
- The objective of New Tokyo Investment Trust plc is to achieve long-term capital appreciation through investment in the securities of small to medium sized Japanese companies.

Copies of these reports may be obtained from EDINBURGH FUND MANAGERS PLC
4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7JB. Telephone: 031-226 4931.

"If London Life policies are so good, why does my broker never recommend them?"

London Life's advantages from the policyholder's point of view are no secret.

In fact, if you read the insurance press (Planned Savings, for example, or Money Management) you will find London Life at, or pretty near the top of most of the performance tables.

So it may be something of a surprise to learn that the great majority of London Life's new business comes, not through brokers, but on the personal recommendation of existing policyholders and professional advisers.

The reasons are simple. London Life does not pay commission to anyone - even their own staff. Their staff are trained to give expert advice rather than sales talk.

That, in a nutshell, is why you will never hear much about London Life from intermediaries in the ordinary course of events.

And it is also why you could be well advised to find out more for yourself. Just post the coupon, and we will send you the facts.



The non-commission way of Life

£50,000 of cover for less than £4 a month*

The most economical way to provide protection for your family and dependants is term assurance; and London Life's policies offer exceptional value. A man of 29 can have £50,000 of cover for under £4 a month; and that includes the right to change the policy into a permanent one at a later date - at normal premium rates, and with no further medical evidence.



*Based on a man aged 30 next birthday paying a monthly premium of £3.94 for fifteen years, and allowing for life assurance premium relief, at present 15%.

Saving for retirement?

With London Life your savings can attract a net yield of 21% p.a.*

With London Life you can turn a net outlay of just £50 per month over a ten year period into a cash fund of £18,219* to provide retirement benefits. That's a remarkable net annual yield of 21%; made possible by taking full advantage of tax relief and backed by London Life's outstanding record of investment performance.



*Based on a 30% taxpayer aged 55 retiring at 65 and assuming that current bonus and premium rates are maintained.

Amongst the leaders in unit linked assurance.

Linked life assurance can offer exciting growth opportunities - provided you choose an insurance company with a consistently impressive investment record. London Life for example.

Money Management's March 1983 Survey shows that our Equity and Mixed Funds are the sector leaders over the three year period up to February 1983. Our other Funds also appear regularly amongst the leaders in the performance table - another tribute to London Life's investment managers and another reason for you to look closely at London Life.



One of the cheapest ways to repay a Mortgage.

From April 1983, a mortgage linked to a low-cost endowment policy is probably the best way to buy your house. So you need only ask yourself one simple question - whose low-cost endowment policy to buy?

Fortunately the answer is simple - London Life's Home Loan Policy. The evidence can be seen in Planned Savings (March 1983) and Money Management (September 1982).



Protect your income with a London Life Income Bond.

If you are investing for income, the lower interest rates now prevailing must be of some concern. A reduced income with no guarantee that it will not be reduced further in the months ahead, makes any kind of financial planning for the future uncertain. There is a solution. The London Life 10 Year Income Bond.



To: New Business Department,
The London Life Association Limited,
Freeport, 100 Temple Street, Bristol BS1 6YJ. (No stamp required)
Please send me full information on:

- ☐ Convertible Term Policies
☐ Self Employed Pension Annuity Policies
☐ Endowment Policies
☐ Unit Linked Assurance
☐ Home Loan Policies
☐ Income Bonds
- Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Date of Birth _____
Tel. Nos. Business _____
Home _____

(If you prefer, you can call Michael Cavalier on 01-588 9981)



WOULD YOU LIKE £11,298* ON RETIREMENT?

Are you over 45 and thinking ahead to retirement?
If so, now is the time to start saving with the best Savings Plan available - Homeowners.

TAX FREE RETURNS

A Homeowners Lump Sum Plan will give you exceptionally generous rewards.
You can invest from £600 to £2,400 (double for a married couple). For example, if you invest the maximum Lump Sum of £2,400 that could bring an incredible £6,636 after 10 years.
*What's more, if that money was left in for another 5 years, with no further contribution from you, you could end up with the magnificent sum of £11,298.

That's how hard Homeowners make your money work for you! If you prefer not to invest a Lump Sum, you can also save monthly or annually with plans which give you incredibly high returns of up to 13.39% net with no tax liability whatsoever.

On top of this Homeowners give you the secure backing of building societies like Bradford & Bingley, The Leeds Permanent, The Principality and Leeds & Holbeck. So, if you are between 16 and 70 years old, married or with dependent child(ren), Homeowners High Returns Savings Plans are for you.

If you're thinking ahead to retirement, they're ideal for you. Write today and secure yourself a more comfortable retirement.

Homeowners Friendly Society, FREEPOST, Springfield Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 5BR.

13.39% net with no tax liability whatsoever.

FREEPOST-NO STAMP NEEDED
I'd like to know more about Homeowners High Return Savings Plans. Please send me the facts. Post to Homeowners Friendly Society, FREEPOST, Springfield Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 5BR.

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HFS A SAVINGS PLAN FOR ALMOST EVERYONE

John Govett Unit Trusts

Specialist unit trusts for serious investors

Govett Gold & Minerals Fund

Launched in October 1983, the Fund aims to produce capital growth principally through investment in companies involved in the exploration for and the financing, mining, and production of gold and other precious and base metals and minerals. Up 11.8%* since launch.

Govett Japan Growth Fund

Up 30.4%* since launch in July 1983.

The Fund is currently investing in electricals, engineering, consumer and leisure stocks, with emphasis on quality. The Managers believe that future investment prospects in Japan are highly encouraging.

*As at 17th February 1984.

Our other specialist trusts are:

Govett American Growth Fund
Launched May 1983.

Govett European Growth Fund
Launched September 1980.

To: John Govett Unit Management Limited,
FREEPOST, London EC2B 2LP. Tel: 01-588 5620.

Please send me details of:

Govett American Growth Fund ☐ Govett Japan Growth Fund ☐
Govett Gold & Minerals Fund ☐ Govett European Growth Fund ☐ Share Exchange Plan ☐

Name

Address

Postcode

Tel

SPECULATORS ONLY

"I turned £1500 into £2,498
in only 28 days by investing
in Zinc, thanks to LHW..."
D. Wilson Esq., Co. Durham



On the 20th of November 1983 Mr. Wilson saw one of our advertisements and sent off for our Free Information Pack all about investing in commodities.

On the 8th of December 1983, after a very careful consideration, he invested £1500, a sum he could afford to lose, in Zinc.

On the 8th of January 1984 Mr. Wilson, instructed us to sell.

After all expenses had been paid, he made a net profit of £998. That's a 66% profit in a month, by no means our best case history.

How Mr. Wilson invested in commodities without taking an unlimited risk.

You've probably been attracted in the past by the thought of investing in commodities. After all how many serious investors can honestly say that they're not intrigued by the potential of unlimited speculative profits?

Wise, however, you may have been put off by the quiet you get of unlimited losses, with frequent and unexpected calls for further cash.

The unique LHW Limited Risk Contract. We have solved this problem by creating the exclusive LHW Limited Risk Contract. It means that, with us, you can never lose more than your initial deposit - yet you can still make enormous profits.

As a result of the Limited Risk Contract, investment participation in the commodity market is no longer dominated by the big professional speculators. In fact, our entire commitment is to private clients.

Commodity prices are highly volatile, and fortunes can be made and lost quickly. If commodities are not part of your everyday investment strategy, I would advise caution. Like Mr. Wilson, only trade in these markets with funds you can afford to lose.

FREE! The LHW Limited Risk Contract. In addition to our Commodity Investors Handbook we'll send you our latest Newsletter which covers not only commodities, as well as many other fields of investment, but also comments on the general state of the world economy.

Without obligation send for more information!
YES please send me your FREE Commodity Investment Information Pack. 18/2/84

Name

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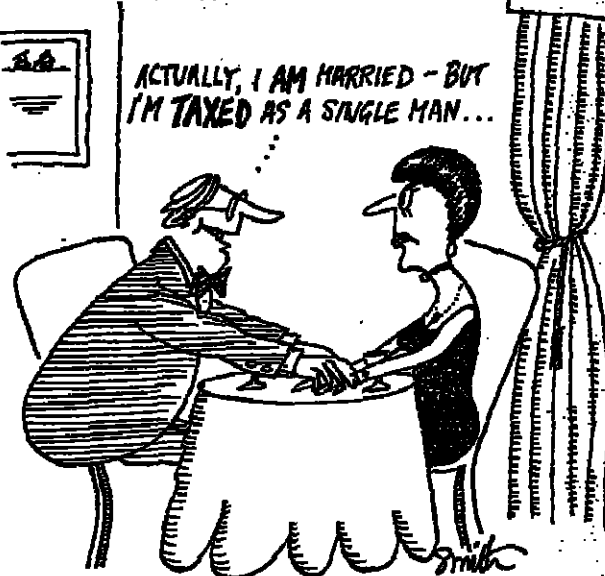
Tel (day): (eve):

FREE! Send to LHW, 24/46 Wardrobe Place, London EC4V 3AH. Tel 01-248 6121

FAMILY MONEY

Tax planning

Why the inspector keeps an eye on your wife's figure



The Budget may be fewer than four weeks away (March 13), but April 6 is the magic date as far as most of us are concerned. That is the end of the 1983-84 tax year and if you want to make sure you have done everything to cut your tax bill you should be taking action now.

First: how to reduce your income tax.

a) Is your wife as tax efficient as she should be? If she works for your own company, or contributes in some way to your business, she should be paid in the current tax year a wife can earn up to £1,785 before she is liable to tax, but it will usually pay to keep her earnings below the starting threshold for National Insurance contributions - £1,690.

If your wife is earning you could reduce your bill by asking for the wife's earnings election. This means you are both taxed as single people (not to be confused with separate assessment). It is only worth doing if the joint income was at least £19,537 in the 1982-83 tax year and your wife earned at least £4,352 of that. You have to apply for the wife earnings election for the 82-83 tax year by April.

b) Do you work abroad for part of the year, or go on business trips? If you spend 30 or more nights overseas on business, you qualify for a 25 per cent reduction in income tax on that proportion of your salary.

c) Paying exorbitant school fees? Or, are your parents or in-laws helping out here and there? They could save up to £535.50 per child in the current tax year if they make their contribution through a covenant. But they have to complete the formalities and make a payment by April 6.

d) Pension contributions are one of the most efficient forms of saving. If you are self-employed, or not in a company scheme, you can pay up to 17.5 per cent of your net relevant earnings into a plan of your choice - and get relief at your highest rate for the current tax year. If you are in a company

scheme and want to boost your pension you can pay up to 15 per cent of your salary into it through Additional Voluntary Contributions, with full tax relief, if your employer runs an AVC scheme.

e) You can claim tax relief at your highest rate on investment in a Business Expansion Scheme - up to £40,000 for this current year. But if you do it indirectly through a fund, you will not receive the relief unless the fund actually relieves the money before April 6. A lot of bad investment decisions may be taken by fund managers in the next few weeks as they try to invest money before the end of the 1983-84 tax year. You might be wise to wait.

Second: how to reduce capital taxes.

a) A single person or a married couple are exempt from capital gains tax on the first £5,300 of profits on shares, unit trusts or other investments sold in the current tax year. That £5,300 is calculated after allowing for index-linking on shares, etc. held for more than a year. You cannot carry the exemption forward to the 84-85 tax year.

b) You can give away up to £3,000 in this tax year using your capital transfer tax exemption and backdate a similar amount for the 1982-83 tax year as well if you did not use the exemption last year. Married couples, by the way, can give away up to £3,000 each for both these years, provided it is done by April 6. Money given under the exemptions does not count towards the final CTT assessment.

c) You can give away any number of gifts, to different people, of up to £250 in this tax year, without incurring any CTT liability.

d) As well as the main capital transfer tax exemption, both parents can give away £5,000 each to a child who is getting married. You do not have actually to give it in this tax year, but the gift must be made before marriage and put in writing.

Margaret Drummond

Prolific

From the 1983 winners...

Last year the seven Prolific unit trusts achieved an average growth rate of over 40%, earning us the coveted Observer Smaller Unit Trust Group of the Year award.

Since the first Prolific unit trust was launched in 1969 our consistently successful investment record has become widely acknowledged, particularly by the professional adviser.

Indeed, performance figures recently published by Planned Savings for the 2-year period to 1st February 1984 confirm that no less than four Prolific funds are currently amongst the 20 top performing unit trusts in the country.

Funds under management are increasing rapidly - our seven trusts are currently valued at over £90 million - making Prolific one of the fastest-growing unit trust groups in the country.

A new era

The investment scene is undergoing radical change. We are moving into a new era, where technological developments are not only revitalising established industries but are also spawning new ones.

And there are other reasons for optimism:

* The political will demonstrated by the major western powers to contain inflation offers the prospect of more stable conditions.

- * Drastic industrial rationalisation is already resulting in substantially increased profitability.
- * The upturn in world economic activity will give a further boost to profits.
- * A combination of low inflation and profits growth provides the best background for stock-market investment and prospects for capital growth remain good, therefore, both in the UK and overseas.

Furthermore, the recent downturn in share prices - which we believe to be temporary - provides a particularly good opportunity to invest at lower levels.

We are currently offering you a choice of two growth trusts both with first-class performance records - Prolific Special Situations, which is principally a UK investment, and Prolific Technology, which has an international perspective.

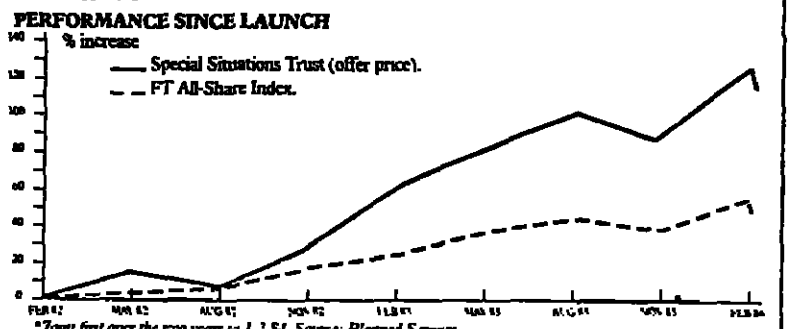
While we are confident about the outlook for both trusts, you should of course remember that the price of units can go down as well as up and you should regard your investment as a long-term one.



...two growth opportunities for the future

Prolific Special Situations

This Trust is invested primarily in UK ordinary shares which the Managers believe offer exceptional scope for capital appreciation. Although the emphasis is on growth companies, the Trust also invests in take-over situations, cyclical recovery stocks and any other opportunity consistent with the Trust's aim. It is our policy to take a flexible approach and not to be confined to particular market sectors.



How to invest
To make an investment, simply complete the subscription form below and return it to us with your cheque. The minimum investment in each Trust is £250. You will receive a contract note followed, within six weeks, by your unit certificate. For your guidance.

General Information

Managers: Prolific Unit Trusts, 222 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4JS. Telephone 01-237 7543.

Trustee: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.

Prices and Yield Unit prices are calculated daily and both the prices and the yield are quoted each day in the national press.

Charges: An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price of units for both trusts. The annual management charge is 1% (+VAT) for Special Situations Trust and 1% (+VAT) for Technology Trust.

Income Distribution Dates 20th January and 20th July for both trusts.

Selling units: You can sell your units back to us on any business day at the bid (i.e. selling) price ruling on receipt of your instructions. Payment will usually be made within ten working days of receipt of your renunciation certificate.

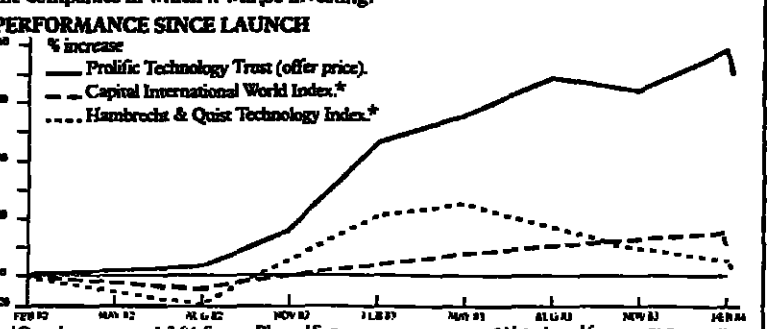
Prolific Unit Trusts is the trading name of Provincial Life Investment Company Limited.

Registered in England No. 959864.

Registered Office: Stranongate, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4BE.

Prolific Technology

The objective of this Trust is maximum capital growth through investment in technology stocks worldwide and to achieve this, the Managers take strategic long-term positions in companies with strong management and outstanding potential. We are highly optimistic about the prospects for future growth. However, Prolific Technology is likely to be a volatile investment due to the nature of the companies in which it will be investing.



the offer prices of units on 8th February were: Prolific Special Situations: 107.9p; estimated gross yield 1.40%; Prolific Technology: 124.0p; no income distributions have been made to date and we do not anticipate any being made over the next twelve months.

Prolific Special Situations & Prolific Technology Unit Trusts

To: Prolific Unit Trusts (Administration Centre), Stranongate, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4BE.

I/We wish to invest £ (minimum £250) in Prolific Special Situations Unit Trust

I/We wish to invest £ (minimum £250) in Prolific Technology Unit Trust

at the offer price ruling on receipt of this order. A cheque for this amount, made out to Prolific Unit Trusts, is enclosed.

I am/We are over 18 years of age.

Name

Address

Signature

In the case of joint subscriptions, full names and signatures should be attached on a separate sheet of paper.

☐ Please tick here if you wish all net income to be automatically re-invested in additional units.

☐ Please tick here if you would like a local independent intermediary to provide you with details of our monthly savings arrangements which offer life assurance and tax relief. This offer is not applicable to residents of the Republic of Ireland.



**Prolific
UNIT TRUSTS**

USM FOR YOUR PORTFOLIO

THE MARKET - the Unlisted Securities Market is a nursery for the successful companies of tomorrow and offers the most exciting investment prospects BUT not every company will succeed, so careful stock selection is critical. It is therefore essential to seek the experience and detailed knowledge that can only be provided by professional management. The Britannia Unlisted Securities Market Fund Limited offers the following Features:

* PERFORMANCE

£1,000 invested 2 years ago has grown to £1,638 (16.1.82) to (16.1.84)
Dataseam U.S.M. Index + 43.5% (16.1.82) to (16.1.84)

Britannia Unlisted Securities Market Fund Limited + 63.8%

* REDUCED RISK

The Funds wide portfolio minimises the risk of individual failure.

* PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT

the Britannia investment team are able to study each company closely.

* INVESTMENT PERIOD

the Fund invests in emerging growth companies, and investors are recommended to retain their holding for a minimum of 3 years to maximise growth potential. However, you can sell at any time.

* MINIMUM INVESTMENT

£1,000 lump sum or £50 minimum per month in the Britannia Accumulation Savings Account.

COMPLETE THE COUPON BELOW & RECEIVE: a detailed letter about the Fund, our U.S.M. investment bulletin and the Fund brochure, including your application form.

The Fund is based in Jersey and is listed on the Stock Exchange, London.

Investors should note that the past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance.

Britannia

Unlisted Securities Market Fund Limited

P.O. Box 271, Queensway House, Queen Street, St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands. Telephone 0534 73114



To: D. Aitken, Director, Britannia International Investment Management Limited, P.O. Box 271, Queensway House, Queen Street, St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands.

Please send me the explanatory memorandum for the Britannia Unlisted Securities Market Fund Limited (on the terms of which alone applications will be considered).

Name

Address

Signature

In the case of joint subscriptions, full names and signatures should be attached on a separate sheet of paper.

☐ Please tick here if you wish all net income to be automatically re-invested in additional units.

☐ Please tick here if you would like a local independent intermediary to provide you with details of our monthly savings arrangements which offer life assurance and tax relief. This offer is not applicable to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

تحت إشراف الرأسمال

FAMILY MONEY

Wills

It pays to revise your last word

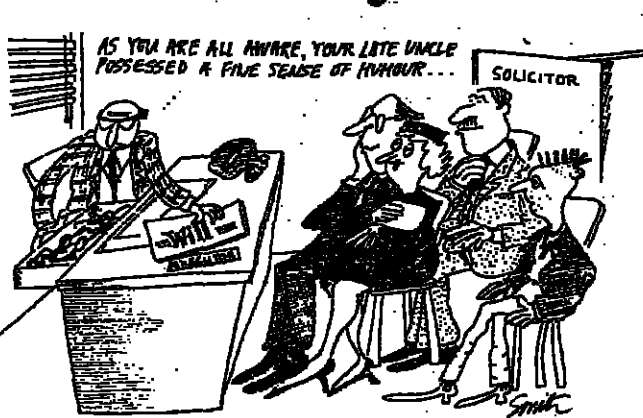
The old lady who makes a hobby of reviewing her will and altering it according to changing circumstances has something to teach all of us. Review your will regularly - at least every five years.

By its nature, a will is your last word and you should make it on the basis that you will be hit by a bus before the ink is dry.

The most brief of wills was said to read "Give the works to Maud" and that was sufficient - so far as it went. However, modern travel increases the possibility of husband and wife dying together as likely as not while they are young and so a young couple should make careful financial provision and appoint guardians for those children if they are orphaned.

With rising house values, pension scheme benefits and accident and term insurance policies producing substantial sums of money on death, not everyone will wish their offspring to have outright control of large sums of money at 18 - which is what the law provides unless you stipulate otherwise in your will.

Remember that the market value of the average home is about £30,000 and would probably be free of any mort-



gage (being covered by a mortgage protection policy).

On top of that, a lump sum death-in-service benefit from an occupational pension scheme might produce the same amount again: so a total of £60,000 could be available for a young person at 18.

What about that pension scheme? It is not uncommon for occupational pension schemes to pay out two, three or even four times salary on death in service.

There is an important tax consideration here. Although gifts by will to surviving

spouses are tax free, gifts to any one else (above a certain figure) are not tax free. On the other hand, death duty legislation usually renders a lump sum payment from your pension scheme on your death exempt from capital transfer tax.

So if your wife dies with you, or you want to pass some cash on to the children direct and free of capital transfer tax - and you want to minimize tax and avoid the possibility of young persons controlling large sums of money at 18 - organise matters so that the pension scheme money is paid out for

the benefit of your children and in such a way that they can control the lump sum until an age later than 18 - say 21 or even 25.

Technically, the trustees of your pension scheme have complete discretion over the lump sum - provided they distribute it to one or more of your relatives and dependants within a period after your death (usually one or two years but no longer).

However, they will usually take note of your wishes, as the member of the scheme - but you must make sure that the trustees of the pension scheme do know your wishes. This usually means taking the trouble to complete a form and giving it to the administrator of the pension scheme. The personnel department or company secretary can usually help.

So make a will taking account of the possibility that you and your spouse may die together and when doing so think about what will be payable from your pension scheme and who should benefit from it in the circumstances most likely to arise. Make sure the administrator of your pension scheme knows what you would prefer to happen.

David Martin

National Insurance

How to save cash on extra jobs

Each year, millions of pounds in national insurance payments are made when they do not have to be.

With heavier contributions starting in a few weeks, more and more people will find that there can be big money involved.

On top of this, the 100,000 or so people who find themselves in this situation every year tend to do little about the matter. Most seem content to wait and let the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) pay back the money later. This is surprising, when in some cases the sum involved may be hundreds of pounds.

This situation arises for two reasons. First, some people are tending to take part-time, second (and, in some cases, even third) jobs to earn extra cash to help make ends meet.

Second, the NI arrangements which came into operation in 1975 meant that contributions had to be paid in every job a person took, be it self-employed or as an employee.

So, when someone has more than one job, it now means paying two, and perhaps three, times over.

The cash involved can be quite large. From April, those

earning £250 or more a week have to pay about £1,190 a year in NI (equal to £22.50 a week). Those with earnings like this from two jobs will pay out twice as much in this instance, unless they take action to avoid it.

On the bright side, you can now pay a set maximum each year. If you pay above this because of other jobs, you become entitled to a refund.

The annual maximum varies according to personal circumstances - whether jobs are as employees, or as self-employed, or a mixture, or whether they are within the scope of the state earnings-related pension arrangements or not. As a rough guide, anyone who pays substantially more than £1,190 in NI in 1984-85 could qualify for a refund.

As it does seem a shame to pay out good money, even on a temporary basis, how can it be avoided? The DHSS allows those in this predicament to put off paying some of the contributions when it is obvious that income from a combination of jobs will go over the year's maximum level of contribution.

Broken down into weekly terms, it works like this. In 1984-85, the maximum weekly earnings on which contributions

will be due are £250. Take the case of a man who during the year expects to get £300 in his main job and £50 a week from part-time work. As he will meet the maximum requirement in his main job, he can avoid having to pay any extra contributions in his second job by applying to "defer" them.

Alternatively, take the case of someone who has three jobs and will be earning, say, £300, £75 and £40 a week. Because wages in jobs one and two take him up to the limit, he can ask to be exempt from paying contributions in job three. And because he will still pay more than the maximum in jobs one and two, he can look forward to

a refund at the end of the year as well.

Of course, if in either of these cases the person concerned does not ask for his contributions to be put off, he will end up paying all the extra, although he will get it back at the end of the 1984-85 tax year. Even so, it makes sense not to pay in the first place, if you can avoid it.

The DHSS produces two free leaflets which give details. "More than one job" (number NP28) is for those work only as employees. "Class 4 contributions" (number NP18) is for those with a mixture of employed and self-employed jobs. Both have application forms.

Ian McDonald

Looking out for women investors

Women exist - that's official. When unit trust managers like Tyndall think it is worth advertising specifically to attract female investors, then women have indeed arrived.

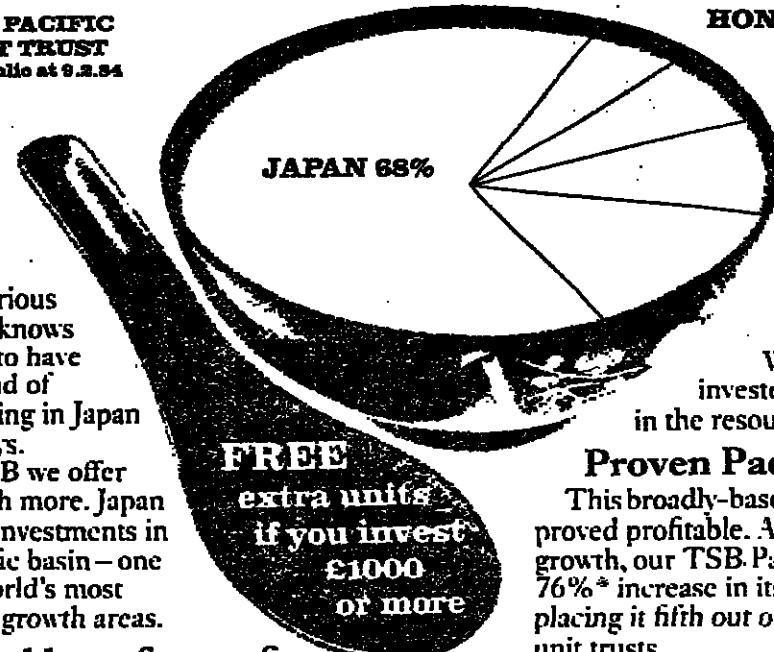
Tyndall has just woken up to the fact that women - as well as men - have money to put into unit trusts. It is launching an

advertising campaign to attract women investors in *Countrywoman* and *Woman's Own* magazines.

It is hoped that women will have the sense to realize that now might not be the ideal time to invest and wait until markets settle down before making any decision.

How TSB is looking beyond Japan for extra profit

TSB PACIFIC UNIT TRUST
Portfolio at 9.2.84



Every serious investor knows it's wise to have some kind of unholding in Japan these days.

At TSB we offer you much more. Japan plus key investments in the Pacific basin - one of the world's most dynamic growth areas.

A broad base for profit

Though some 68% of our portfolio is currently held in Japan (including recovery stocks, electronics and manufacturing companies, all of which should benefit from the general up-turn in the Japanese economy) the balance of our fund is placed elsewhere.

We have, for example, 10% in Singapore and Malaysia, where we expect recovery in other parts of the world to increase demand for commodities.

And we have 4% in Hong Kong, where the latest political moves have brought optimism to this important stock market.

The minimum investment is £250. But if you invest £1,000 or more within 21 days from today's date, you will have an extra 1% added to your unit holding, at no extra cost to you.

TSB
UNIT TRUSTS

WINNERS, 1983 DAILY TELEGRAPH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS COMPETITION

FACTS ABOUT THIS TRUST
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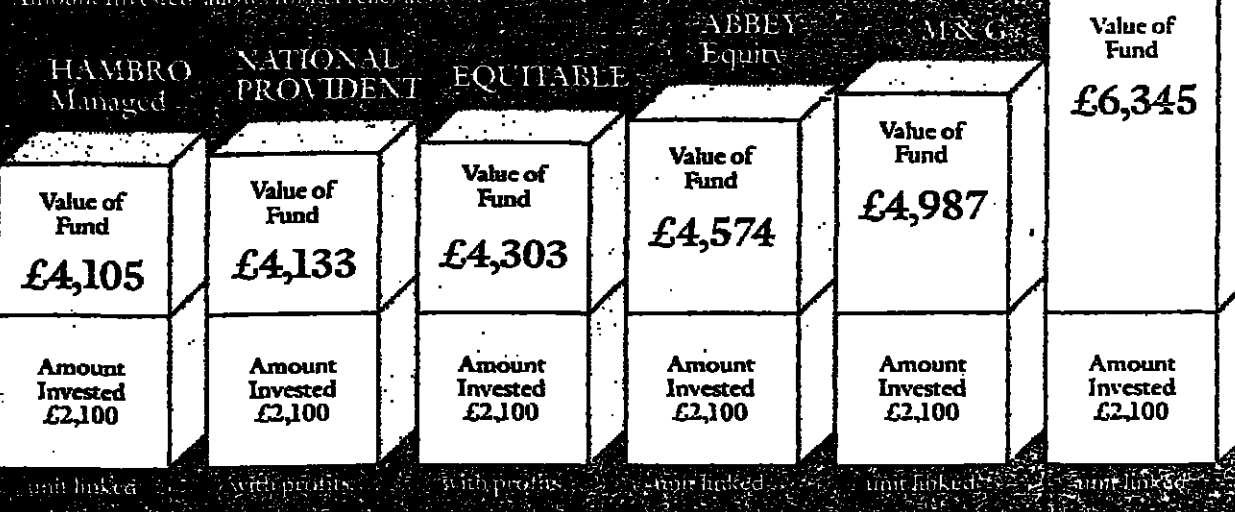
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*Self-Employed Pensions Handbook, 1983.

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Publisher SMC

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FAMILY MONEY

Insurance

U-turn as Pru covers bikers

Yamaha motorcycle riders can secure tailor made insurance when they buy their machines. The Prudential is linking up with more than 600 Yamaha dealers to offer insurance through brokers Willis Faber. The Pru has been induced to cast off its bicycle-clips image and actively seek motorcycle insurance business by the laws introduced a year ago which limit learner drivers to low-powered machines, stop them riding around for years on a provisional licence, and impose a stiff two-part test.

"We believe the effectiveness of this new legislation has had in reducing road accidents and damage will work through our claims experience. For this reason we are happy to be doing something of a U-turn in actively seeking out motorcycle insurance," said Mr Percy Knight, the Pru's motor manager.

The scheme, available only for Yamaha motorbikes, follows the tie-up between Crusader Insurance and Suzuki. But Norwich Union still writes more than 60 per cent of motorcycle insurance business.

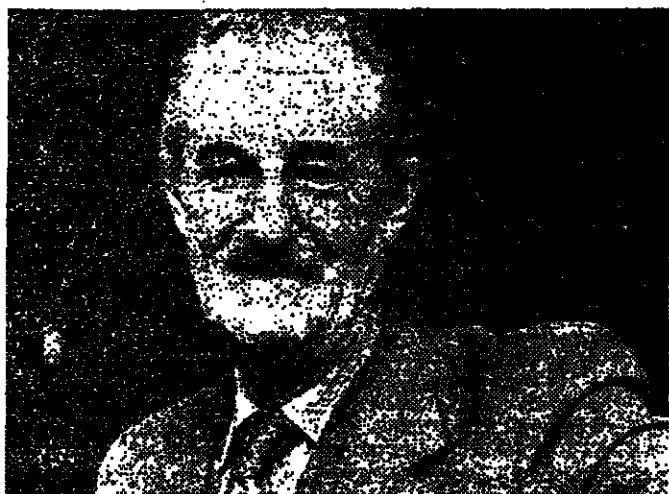
A 20-year-old living in Gloucestershire driving a 125cc Yamaha machine would pay £60 to the Pru for third party, fire and theft cover compared with £75 to the Norwich Union. An 18-year-old on a 750cc bike in London would pay £875 for fully comprehensive cover at the Pru but £990 with Norwich Union.

A spokesman for Norwich Union said: "Our rates represent the true risk. It would be interesting to know how other people could make profits. It is borderline with us."

Vivien Goldsmith

Retirement

The winners and losers in the pensions lottery



Harold Strudwick: A pension of less than half-pay

It is galling enough to be left with a pitiable pension because you have changed jobs several times, but it is even more of an outrage when you have stuck with one company for 49 years and end up with less than half pay.

That is what happened to Mr Harold Strudwick when he retired in May 1980 aged 65 after nearly 50 years working for the Co-operative Society. And it was not as if he were a blue collar worker, where a decent pension is, even today, the exception. Mr Strudwick now lives on just over £5,000 gross a year, his Co-op pension. At retirement he was earning more than £10,000 as a bank manager in Watford. The discrepancy between his pension and his counterparts' at other banks is large.

Thanks to the work of the Bankers and Insurance & Finance Union (Bifu) the other leading banks now provide a respectable pension worth two thirds of employees' wages after 40 years' service.

Even so it has among its retired members those who stopped work in the early and mid-1970s who are receiving pensions of less than £3,000 a year, or £60 a week.

The stinginess of the Co-op pension is particularly ironic given its "people's bank" image. It expects its male employees to work until 65, while other banks allow retirement at 60 for a full pension. Other banks are also more generous with extra payments to pensioners whose standard of living has become eroded by inflation.

Bifu has made strenuous efforts to shame the Co-op into

bringing its pensions up to the level of other banks. Unfortunately it lost a court case on the issue recently. The Co-op argued successfully that although its bank was part of the banking industry, its special position inside the Co-operative movement meant that that part of the 1975 Employment Protection Act (Schedule 11, now repealed) stipulating that workers in comparable fields should enjoy the same terms and conditions did not apply.

Mr Strudwick's position is even more painful when his pension is compared with one of the best pensions - that of ICI. To begin with it is worth noting that all Mr Strudwick got on retirement was a £200 gratuity.

Mr Arthur Jones, international exhibitions officer for ICI's Mond division in Runcorn, was lucky. He took early retirement at 57 in 1981, a

redundancy cheque and a pension worth an impressive 90 per cent of the £10,000 he was earning when he left.

Both men joined their respective businesses at the age of 15 years and nine months. Mr Strudwick in 1931 (earning 12 shillings a week), and Mr Jones in 1939 (just over 10 shillings). But Mr Strudwick worked eight years more for almost half of what Mr Jones gets now. Both joined as clerks and both worked their way into middle management, ending on virtually the same salary.

Mr Jones received £6,000 gross in 1983 from the ICI Pension Fund and £3,000 income from the lump sum he commuted. He has these funds seemingly well managed by local financial consultants he was introduced to by ICI.

Mr Strudwick commuted the maximum 25 per cent allowed, but in stark contrast, received

£8,800 which yielded interest of about 10 per cent in 1983, thus pushing his £4,232 Co-op pension just over £5,000.

Both ICI and the Co-op attempt to make increases each year to reflect inflation. Once again ICI is more generous than the Co-op. Mr Jones got a 6 per cent increase last year and the fund reckons that its pensioners have received between 70 and 80 per cent of the increase in inflation in the last 10 years. Mr Strudwick has received the Co-op maximum of 5 per cent each year since his retirement.

Mr Jones paid out about 3½ per cent of his wages to the ICI scheme and 3 per cent to the state. He also paid additional voluntary contributions whenever he was invited to.

Mr Strudwick did not make extra contributions and believes that he paid out something like 4 per cent of his wages over the years. The Co-op did not "contract out" of the state scheme.

Although Mr Strudwick worked for 49 years, his pension was assessed on 42½ years.

To set himself up with reasonable comfort for retirement Mr Strudwick had to take out a £7,000 mortgage on his home (he will not have paid it off until he is 95) which does cut his tax bill. He lives alone, has no car and no pressing financial worries, but he is understandably irked with his small pension.

Mr Jones cannot praise ICI enough as employer and pension provider. He and his wife own their house and a caravan. "Thankfully I don't have to spend money on suits any more and we don't go on giddy holidays," he comments. "But we're comfortable."

Hilaire Gomer

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A pension fund for jockeys

Life will in future have fewer hurdles for jockeys who for the first time are to have their own pension fund.

Drawn up by the Jockeys Association of Great Britain in conjunction with its pension consultants Patrick MacNamee & Associates, the fund will provide a pension for both flat and National Hunt jockeys who have held a licence for three seasons and who weigh out for 50 rides or more in a season from March 1.

The fund, which has required a change in both the rules of racing and in legislation, claims to be the first pension fund for self-employed sportsmen.

Contributions to the fund will be made by allocating 0.6 per cent of total prize money (calculated to be approximately £120,000 in the first 10 months to the end of 1984) to the new pension scheme.

At the end of each calendar year, each qualifying jockey will be allocated one share in the pension fund for every ride during the preceding season.

Benefits are underwritten by Windsor Life, and retirement age will be 35 for National Hunt jockeys and 45 for those who ride on the flat.

L.B.

Now, even lower premiums for 'non-smokers' - from Clerical Medical.



For a monthly premium of only £7.06*, a healthy 'non-smoking' man aged 30 can arrange for his family to be paid a tax-free income of £10,000 per annum right up to the year 2004, should he die at any time before that date.

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Forshaw's bids for Border Breweries

By Jeremy Warner

Border Breweries of Wrexham, which announced recently that it was in bid talks with an unnamed company, has attracted more than one suitor, it emerged yesterday.

Forshaw's Burtonwood Brewery of Warrington yesterday launched a £9.4m cash bid worth 17.5p a share for the company. But it is not the mystery suitor with whom Border is trying to thrash out agreed takeover terms.

"We hope that our bid will flush out whoever it is they are in talks with," Mr Graham Dutton-Forshaw, Burtonwood's chairman said. "We had talks with Border last November but were unable to get anywhere. Whoever it is trying to acquire the company at the moment must be in cohorts with Whitebread which owns 17 per cent of the company but would not bid itself."

Since he became chairman last September, Mr Dutton-Forshaw has brought new life to the sleepy Warrington brewery with which his family has been

associated since 1867. "I hope to give it a sense of direction and purpose," he said yesterday.

Both Burtonwood and Border have a large number of pubs in sales so a merger between the two companies must have considerable commercial advantages for both. The merger will also create a stronger and more profitable independent brewery group.

A new name emerged among the other possible suitors for Border yesterday - Guinness. It has been looking for outlets for some time now, and Border would give it an automatic platform of 170 pubs in the north Wales area. Greenall Whitley and Wolverhampton and Dudley are also thought to be interested.

Forshaw owns about 300 pubs, some of which have a geographical overlap with Border.

On the stock market Border's shares leapt 26p to 180p in anticipation of a takeover a

Ozalid Group Holdings, drops by £1.23m

Reprographic group wholly owned by the Dutch Ozalid Group Holdings, which was formed in 1982, has suffered a slide in pretax profits last year.

Although pretax profits fell from £2.5m to £1.7m in the year to November 1983, this compares with previous years in the red.

The 1982 profits, after extraordinary items of £1.1m, are near the 1983 pretax profits which are not subject to any extraordinary debits. There was again no tax charge.

Ozalid has undergone significant reorganization under a policy of slimming down the product range. Turnover is down from £41.5m to £35.7m.

The company believes this to be a "satisfactory performance in view of the fact that the reprographic market has yet to benefit from the return to activity being experienced by some other sectors of manufacturing industry."

Regalian in property deal with director

By Jonathan Clark

holding of Mr Goldstone and Davstone from 61.59 per cent to 32.14 per cent.

Mr Goldstone said yesterday that the properties were not a significant part of Davstone's assets and that they had been held for about 25 years. The importance of the deal was twofold, he added. Regalian was buying at a 12 per cent discount to the market valuation and it also gave an opportunity to increase institutional investment in the company. He said the deal gave Regalian development stock which was not readily available elsewhere.

The profit which Davstone made on the deal was "irrelevant", he said. He pointed out that the properties had been valued by Humberstons, a blue-chip firm of valuers, and were being bought by Regalian at a discount. He said that the deal was being done for the benefit of Regalian and not for Davstone which would incur a substantial liability from the cash.

It was also revealed yesterday that Regalian had been chosen from a shortlist to develop 150 flats in London's Docklands.

The biggest property in the deal with Davstone is in Notting Hill Gate and costs £2.8m. It is to be bought for cash through borrowings. The other two, in Hill Street, Mayfair and Church Street, Kensington, will be bought for cash funded by shares placed with institutions.

The effect of the institutional shareholding in Regalian will be to dilute the combined share-

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1983/84 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

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1983/84	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
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1983/84 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

1983/84	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	%	P/E
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1983/84 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

1983/84	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	%	P/E
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1983/84 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

1983/84	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	%	P/E
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1983/84 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

1983/84	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	%	P/E
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1983/84 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

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1983/84 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

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1983/84 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

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1983/84 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

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DOLLAR SPOT RATES

RACING: LEADING GRAND NATIONAL CANDIDATES ON TRIAL: CONDITIONS AGAINST DAWN RUN IN BIG LEOPARDSTOWN HURDLE

Weighty argument for Lucky Vane

Most of the leading contenders for this year's Grand National will be on parade today. Corbiere, the hero of last year's Aintree epic, has been sent to Newcastle where his endless stamina will be brought into full play by the Sharp Electronics-sponsored Eider Chase, one of the longest races in our calendar.

Meanwhile, Gritter, the winner of the National two seasons ago and the current favourite for this year's race, now has his sights set on the Fairfaine Chase at Windsor. Only in the event of that meeting, however, will the weather will be rerouted to Nottingham.

Well though Corbiere should

run at Newcastle, I doubt whether he will be capable of conceding 10lb to Lucky Vane, who has run so well against Burrough Hill last year. Lucky Vane did particularly well to finish only lengths behind Burrough Hill at Sandown at the beginning of January, albeit at a difference of 9lb, because he was hampered badly by a riderless horse two fences from home.

No one should know better than his trainer, Toby Balding, precisely what is required to win today's marathon, because he took Highland Wedding to Newcastle in the same time three times in the late Sixties and returned home to Weyhill with the prize in the bag on each occasion.

Peaky Sandy, Bush Guide, Lasabony, Narvik and Honourable Man are other runners in today's field with excellent records at Newcastle. However, it is pertinent to point out that my selection has the beating of Bush Guide judged on how they ran at Sandown.

A Kinsman will carry top weight in the Vaux Breweries Novices Chase Final, but if his running against Duke of Milan at Kempton two days after Christmas is anything to go by he should not give as much as 16lb to Bally-Go. At Kempton, a Kinsman was beaten two and a half lengths by Duke of Milan when attempting to give him

3lb. At Ascot recently Bally-Go ran the same horse to half a length when in receipt of 10lb.

Sea Spice, Michael Dickinson's runner, has been assessed on her hurdling form. Her defeat at the hands of Hy-Ko at Uttoxeter last week did nothing to suggest that she would be up to beating a Kinsman and Bally-Go in only her second chase. Sea Spice will be switched for the Aylesley Chase Cup Chase only if Newcastle is abandoned.

Those who back Greenwood Lad, my selection for that race, must bank on him putting in a clear round. He has a good chance of winning two of his latest three races when he fell at a crucial time on each occasion. But in between he ran well enough at Cheltenham in the race won by Everest to suggest that he ought to be up to coping with the likes of Linaw and Carved Opal.

No matter how Greenwood Lad runs, Josh Gifford, his trainer, and Richard Rowe, his jockey, should not leave the course disappointed. Catch Phrase, their runner in the Persian War Novices Hurdle, must have an excellent chance of winning again, even though King's Cuckoo Boy is opposing him. Catch Phrase is still the only horse to have beaten Desert Orchid this season and that takes some doing. Afterwards he won his next race at Newbury by 30 lengths to prove that that earlier result was no fluke.

It is difficult to escape the view that Fulke Walwyn's stable will enjoy a field day at Windsor with Lucifer (2.0) Everest (3.30) and Sun Rising (4.0). Everest bounced back into form at Cheltenham last week and may now be up to beating Royal Judgement and Gritter.



Lean Ar Aghaidh and John Francome have the measure of Membridge at the last (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Boreen Prince has clear chance

Ra Nova, who credited Mrs Nan Kennedy with her biggest success as a long-legged training career when making almost all the running to win the Sceppees Gold Trophy at another £24,000 prize this weekend when his target is the second running of the Wessel Cable Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown.

This, however, looks a much tougher race as the opposition includes two of the best hurdlers in Ireland - Dawn Run and Boreen Prince. This will be the first time that Dawn Run since she defeated Boreen Prince at the Kempton Christmas meeting. Ra Nova finished third on that occasion and made the winner on 10th, better terms.

That could bring them very close together, but neither may be capable of coping with Boreen Prince under today's conditions. He finished second to Gay Brief in last year's Waterford Crystal Handicap Hurdle at Cheltenham at level 10-11.

More recently he carried 12st 12lb into fifth place behind Frodoed in the Sweeps Hurdle over this course and

distance. To put that performance in perspective Boreen Prince was trying to give away 24lb to the winner, who in turn was just above Ra Nova in the Sceppees weights last week.

Boreen Prince will today be meeting Dawn Run on 10th better terms than at Cheltenham, he would have to win with some authority if he is to keep alive his prospects as a good each-way bet in the big race.

Ireland's best four-year-old hurdler, Hold the Head, runs against the stars in the Wessel Hurdle, which opens up the competition in the succeeding event, the Stirligan Four Year Old Hurdle. Northern Game, Manpower and Flying Gayle represent useful recent winners and Manpower, who ran away with an all-aged handicap at Navan, could prove the pick of the 22 competitors.

As Boreen Prince will today be meeting Dawn Run on 10th better terms than at Cheltenham, he would have to win with some authority if he is to keep alive his prospects as a good each-way bet in the big race.

Bajan Sunshine earns Festival run

Bajan Sunshine, the winner of the Cesarwin last autumn, launched his new career over hurdles with a hard-fought victory at Sandown Park yesterday. Jumping fluently, Bajan Sunshine went to the front two flights from home in the Metropolitan Novices' Hurdle, but Peter Scudamore had to exert full power to withstand the determined challenge of Bold Print by half a length.

Trained on the flat by Rod Simpson, Bajan Sunshine is now under the care of Martin Tate, whose last Sandown winner was 10 years ago. Tate said: "He jumped brilliantly. I will give him another

race, and then go to Cheltenham for the Sun Alliance Novices Hurdle, where, hopefully, Peter Scudamore will be available to ride again."

Also Cheltenham-bound is Lean Ar Aghaidh, who turned in a faultless performance when gaining a third successive success in the Stand Novices' Chase. Stan Mellor has ridden since "If the ground is not heavy he will go to the Festival for either the Sun Alliance Chase or the Midway of Fleet Chase."

Lean Ar Aghaidh was given every opportunity to get a good view of the fences by John Francome, who took him on the outside for most of the way. Francome is now just eight

short of his 1,000 success in Britain, and the champion is also poised to break Mellor's record of 1,034 winners before the end of the season.

John O'Neill, on his way to Heathrow to catch a flight to Ireland, where he partners Dawn Run today, made a debut to the all-the-way man Fortune. 5-2 favourite in the Cardinal Handicap Hurdle. The gelding had every chance over the last two flights, but could finish only fourth to the all-the-way man Fortune. Cookie, who goes to Cheltenham for the Joe Coral Hurdle Final.

Leopardstown

GOING: good
2.45 WESSEL CABLE CHAMPION HURDLE (listed race: grade 1; 2.45) (14 runners)
1-21-10 DAWN RUN (10-11) J O'Neill
2-10-10 BOREEN PRINCE (10-11) J O'Neill
3-10-10 RA NOVA (10-11) J O'Neill
4-10-10 HOLD THE HEAD (10-11) J O'Neill
5-10-10 FLYING GAYLE (10-11) J O'Neill
6-10-10 NORTHERN GAME (10-11) J O'Neill
7-10-10 MANPOWER (10-11) J O'Neill
8-10-10 GAY BRIEF (10-11) J O'Neill
9-10-10 BOLD PRINT (10-11) J O'Neill
10-10-10 BAJAN SUNSHINE (10-11) J O'Neill
11-10-10 DESERT ORCHID (10-11) J O'Neill
12-10-10 LUCIFER (10-11) J O'Neill
13-10-10 SUN RISING (10-11) J O'Neill
14-10-10 ROYAL JUDGEMENT (10-11) J O'Neill

Leopardstown

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14-10-10 ROYAL JUDGEMENT (10-11) J O'Neill

Sandown Park results

GOING: Good
2.00 STANLEY CHASE (handicap: conditions; 2.00) (14 runners)
1-20-10 BOLD PRINT (10-11) J O'Neill
2-20-10 BAJAN SUNSHINE (10-11) J O'Neill
3-20-10 DESERT ORCHID (10-11) J O'Neill
4-20-10 LUCIFER (10-11) J O'Neill
5-20-10 SUN RISING (10-11) J O'Neill
6-20-10 ROYAL JUDGEMENT (10-11) J O'Neill
7-20-10 GAY BRIEF (10-11) J O'Neill
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12-20-10 SUN RISING (10-11) J O'Neill
13-20-10 ROYAL JUDGEMENT (10-11) J O'Neill
14-20-10 GAY BRIEF (10-11) J O'Neill

Nottingham

GOING: Good
1.30 BONUSPRINT HANDICAP CHASE (2.51.11; 3m) (14 runners)
1-20-10 BOLD PRINT (10-11) J O'Neill
2-20-10 BAJAN SUNSHINE (10-11) J O'Neill
3-20-10 DESERT ORCHID (10-11) J O'Neill
4-20-10 LUCIFER (10-11) J O'Neill
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Hucknall

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1.30 BONUSPRINT HANDICAP CHASE (2.51.11; 3m) (14 runners)
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Nottingham

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14-20-10 GAY BRIEF (10-11) J O'Neill

Nottingham

GOING: Good
1.30 BONUSPRINT HANDICAP CHASE (2.51.11; 3m) (14 runners)
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Newcastle

GOING: Good
1.45 DAILY MIRROR CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS CHAMPIONSHIP HANDICAP HURDLE (2.17.49; 2m) (8 runners)
1-20-10 BOLD PRINT (10-11) J O'Neill
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Fringe candidates turn out in force for the £150 Chesterfield stakes

By David Cross

With a record 17 candidates, 14 of them from fringe parties, the Chesterfield by-election is likely to be one of the last to attract such a large field.

The Government's promise to raise deposits from £150 to £1,000 will undoubtedly put off most would-be candidates.

Mr Tony Benn, former secretary of state for industry, the Labour Party candidate, was defeated at Bristol South-east at the general election.

A former chairman of the Labour Party National Executive and a rallying point for the left-wing, he contested the deputy leadership unsuccessfully against Mr Denis Healey in 1981.

He is the favourite to win the Chesterfield seat, which Mr Eric Varley, the retiring member, held by 7,763 votes.

Mr Nicholas Bourne, aged 32, a barrister from Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, is contesting Chesterfield for the Conservatives for the second time. Last June he polled 16,118 votes to Mr Varley's 23,881.

A company secretary, Mr Bourne says that one of the main planks in his campaign will be attracting more jobs to the town, where unemployment is about 13 per cent.

Mr Max Payne, aged 54, a polytechnic lecturer, is fighting his fifth election as a Liberal and now an Alliance candidate. He contested Carlton in 1964 and 1966 and Chesterfield in 1979 and at the last election.

Polling will take place on March 1.



Mr Tony Benn



Mr Nicholas Bourne



Mr Max Payne



Miss Helen Ansell (Death of Roads: Freight on Rail) is an unemployed classics teacher. She is 37, was educated at the University of Wales and lives at Highclere, Berkshire. Last October, she brought a successful court action against the departments of Transport and the Environment over routing of the M40 through Highclere Park, forcing them to hold a public inquiry. She contested Finchley against Mrs Thatcher in the general election.



Mr Jitendra J. Nim Bardwal, who was born in India 46 years ago, is an electrical technician at Hatfield Polytechnic with an interest in computers. As a Yoga and Meditation candidate, he offers voters a change - in themselves as well as in the system. Mr Bardwal has stood as a candidate in parliamentary or local elections about 10 times, but does not see himself as a politician.



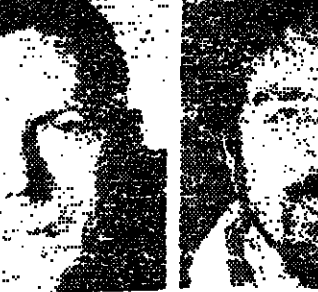
Mr David Bentley (Four-Wheel Drive: Hatchback on Road Safety) owns a garage in Sheffield and has no political experience. He is 37, married with two children, and lives in Grindford, Derbyshire. He chose the slogan because he supports road safety. "The four-wheel vehicle, like the hatchback, is very logical and common sense and is driven by people with an independent spirit. It represents exactly what I stand for."



Mr Donald Butler (Buy Your Chesterfield in the Thame Party) is an upholsterer and furniture manufacturer who sells Chesterfield settees from a shop in Thame, Oxfordshire. He is 40, married with two children and lives at Thame. Mr Butler says he is the first person to use an election to promote a business. He has no political experience and will campaign in the last week by driving around with a Chesterfield on his car.



Mr David Cahill, who is campaigning on the Reclaiming Sun Newspaper as a Comic ticket, says that his manifesto is self-explanatory. Mr Cahill, aged 35, who describes himself as an independent social psychology research worker from west London, appears to mistrust the press generally because he is aggressive in his speech. "This is the first time I am standing and I don't want one vote."



Mr John Connell (Peace), a freelance journalist and former social worker writes on British industry and politics for the *Christian Science Monitor*. He is 56, married and lives in Winchburg, West Lothian. Mr Connell, a member of CND, has fought two by-elections, at Glasgow, Queen's Park, in December 1982, where he polled 40 votes, and at Pearsall last July, polling 69. He cannot afford to campaign actively.



Mr John Victor (Peace), aged 25, a single dental surgeon from Chesterfield is standing on a "No Increases in Dental Charges" platform. "Charges went up 50 per cent last year, leading to a massive increase in the number of people seeking treatment, and consequently a lot of suffering," he says. "Dental charges may go up again shortly. By standing in this election I hope the publicity will persuade the Government to think again."



Mr Christopher Hill, aged 18, from West Drayton, West London, is the youngest candidate in the by-election. He is standing for the Prisoner: I am not a Number party, which he bases on the Prisoner television series repeated recently on Channel 4. He would not be able to take up his seat until his twenty-first birthday. Mr Hill intends to visit Chesterfield at least twice before polling day.



Mr T A 'Tommy' Layton, (Spare The Earth, Ecology), aged 71, is a retired wine merchant and writer on wine, food and travel who runs a business from premises near the British Museum for more than 30 years. He is married with a son and daughter and lives in Hove, Sussex. Mr Layton contested Hove last June, polling 520 votes. Five hundred copies of his manifesto have been distributed.



Mr Bill Maynard (Independent) is an actor and former stand-up comedian known recently for his starring role in the Yorkshire Television series *Oh No It's Selwyn Froggitt*. Today he competes a run in the pantomime *Mother Goose* at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham. He is 55, a widower and lives at Sapcote, Leicestershire. Mr Maynard, a Labour supporter, opposes the selection of Mr Benn.



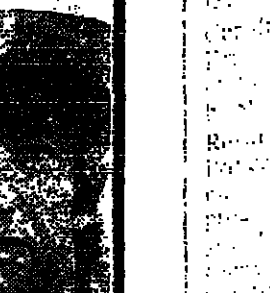
Mr Paul Nicholls-Jones, aged 31, (Independent, the Welshman), lives with his parents in the Rhondda Valley where he sells burglar alarms and insurance policies. A part-time fireman, he has worked as a nurse and a Merchant Navy Seaman. He has studied behavioural science at the Polytechnic of Wales. If elected he would support Alliance policies, but does not want to be tied to party dogma.



Mr Giancarlo Renato Piccaro, aged 21, a second-year student at Worcester College of Higher Education, is standing as the Official Acne Party candidate. His home is at Mountain Ash, mid Glamorgan, and he decided to launch his campaign by distributing sticks of Elvis rock around Chesterfield. If he wins the by-election, he will ask fellow pop music enthusiasts Lord Sutch to join his "cabinet" and vice versa.



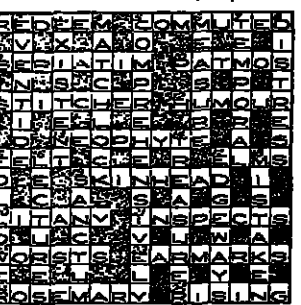
Mr Sid Shaw, aged 37, of London, is standing for the Elvis Party, a life-long devotee of the late American pop star. "I want to bring back rock to Britain," he says. He intends to launch his campaign by distributing sticks of Elvis rock around Chesterfield. If he wins the by-election, he will ask fellow pop music enthusiasts Lord Sutch to join his "cabinet" and vice versa.



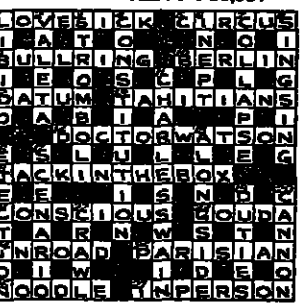
Lord David Sutch (Newster Raving Loony Party Last Stand) is a pop singer and veteran of 10 election contests. He stood twice against Mr Harold Wilson at Hutton in the 1960s, and has always lost his deposit. Among the subjects he has expounded on votes at 16, abolition of VAT and road tax and the conversion of the Swanscombe vehicle licensing centre into a home for pensioners and unmarried mothers.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Solution of Puzzle No 16,352



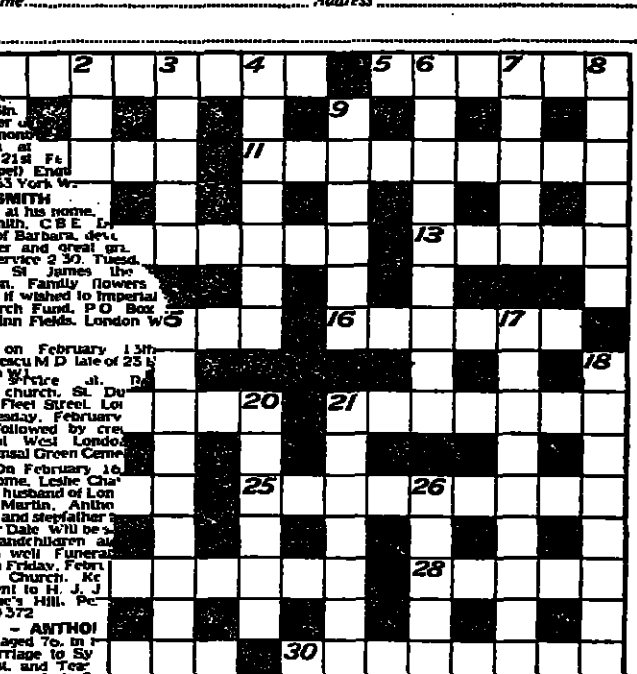
Solution of Puzzle No 16,357



The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 16,358
A price of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coleridge Street, London WC9 9YT. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are:
Mr M. L. Smith, 16 Loop Road South, Whitehaven, Cumbria; P. W. Scotland, Southway Cottage, Polsham, Wells, Somerset; M. Kerr-Smith, 18 Rock Street, Finsbury, London.

Name: _____ Address: _____



DOWN
1 Paid up issue, including a whole range of notes (8).
2 New house-cat, M. Poirot's pride ... (9).
3 ... and the best (inter alia) means of killing it? (5).
4 Performed 10, non-U version, finally (7).
5 One as influential as Svengali (9).
6 Bones spread out in a circle (5).
7 So much corn may conceal one's talent (6).
8 Someone the not quite nice description of racial groups (6).
9 A little matter, it's possible, for a customer for Burke and Hare (9).
10 What gives Donald Duck such vivacity? (9).
11 Some yarn of a flighty female sick in church (8).
12 One of two heard in PM's pronouncement (6).
13 French vicar's home? (7).
14 A cheap sort of dance (6).
15 Port one found in beer containers (5).
16 I'm a Scottish solicitor upset by a Hindu teacher (5).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 19

Today's events

New exhibitions
Hockney's Photographs: National Museum of Photography Film and Television; Prince's View, Bradford; Tues to Sat 12 to 8; Sun 2.30 to 6pm (closed Mon) (until - March 25th).
Words and Pictures from Memory by Penelope Wilton; Cambridge, Darkroom, Dales Brewery, Gwydir St, Tues to Sat 12-8, Sun 12 to 6, (Mon closed) (until - March 4th).
Room for Thought, Eight Works for Contemplation, Oriol Welsh Arts Council Gallery, 53 Charles St, Cardiff; Mon to Sat 9 to 5.30 (closed Sun) (until March 17th).

Exhibitions in progress
Unbuilt Oxford (McAlpine Gallery); Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Tues to Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 4 (closed Mon) until 10 March.

Music
Organ recital by Gordon Stewart, Manchester Cathedral, 7.30.
Recital by Alban Berg Quartet, Birmingham Cathedral, 7.30.
Choral concert, Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham, 7.30.
Concert by Taunton Sinfonietta, Albemarle Assembly Rooms, Taunton, 7.30.
Concert by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Queens Hall, Bournemouth, 7.30.
Concert by Bournemouth Sinfonietta, Wessex Hall, Poole, 7.30.
Concert by La Rappelli, St Cecilia Hall, Cowgate, Edinburgh, 7.45.

Talks and lectures
Toy Trains by Jim Wood, Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 11 am.
London event
Folk Festivals: The Doonan Family, Dead Sea Surfers, Lancashire Wallopers, Eddie Upton and others. Tickets £1.50-2. Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (ends today).

London run
High on Hampstead Heath, non-competitive runs with London Hash House Harriers, start at park, 10.45. Heath, Hampstead, NW3, 10.45.

Tomorrow
Last chance to see
New Scottish Prints Glasgow Art Gallery, Kelvingrove, 2-5 (ends today).
Work by sculptor Henri Gaudier-Breska: City Art Gallery, York, 2.30 to 5 (ends today).
Knit-Two-Together: Exhibition of hand and domestic machine knitting. Industrial Museum, Moor-side Road, Bradford; 10.5 (ends today).

As of Now: Peter Moores Liverpool Project 7: Work of 15 artists selected by William Weaver. Walker Art Gallery, 2 to 5 (ends today).
Photographs of the Norfolk and

Western Railway by O Winston Link

Two exhibitions at Kettle's Yard Gallery, Northampton Street, Cambridge; 2 to 5.30 (ends today).
People and Places, paintings by Avril Grimmer and John Karkon, Ceramics, by Elaine Dick, Work of Thomas Carr, Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal, Cumbria; 2 to 5 (ends today).

In the garden

If you are thinking of buying a new mowing machine to go around now as prices of the model can vary widely in different stores, multiple stores and retailers in county districts and can usually obtain better discounts from the manufacturers and sell well below the recommended retail price.

Do make sure you will get adequate after-sales service, particularly if the machine is still under guarantee. If possible, go to a specialist distributor who carries a wide range of machines. He may be able to prove that it would be better in the long run to buy a size larger machine than you first had in mind.

If you have not been happy with the performance of plants in your garden it might be worth carrying out tests for the alkalinity or acidity of your soil, also for deficiency of nitrogen, potash and phosphates. Test kits are available at very reasonable prices and correcting deficiencies can produce spectacular improvements in plant growth.

In a heated greenhouse sow summer cabbages and cauliflowers and leeks. Also sow onions unless you prefer to plant onion sets next month.

Anniversaries

TODAY: Birth: Queen Mary I, reigned 1553-58, Greenwich, 1516; Alessandro Volta, inventor of the electric battery, Como, Italy, 1745; Ramakrishna, monk and founder of the monastic movement, Hooghly, Bengal, 1836.

Deaths: Fra Angelico, painter, Rome, 1455; Martin Luther, Kisleben, Germany, 1546; Michelangelo, Rome 1564; James John Corbett ("Gentleman Jim"), world heavyweight boxing champion 1892-97, New York, 1933. General Gordon arrived in Khartoum, 1884.

TOMORROW: Birth: David Garrick, actor, Hereford, 1717; Luigi Boccherini, composer, Lucca, Italy, 1743; Sir Roderick Marchison, geologist, Tarradale, Ross and Cromarty (Highland), 1792; Svante August Arrhenius, chemist, Vik, Sweden, 1859; Adeline Paul, singer, Madrid, 1843; Sven Hedin, explorer, Stockholm, 1865; Alvaro Obregón, president of Mexico, 1920-24, 1928, Alamos, Mexico, 1928; Prince Andrew, London, 1960.

Deaths: Georg Buchner, dramatist, Zurich, 1837; Charles Blondin (Jean-François Gravelin), tightrope walker who cooked an omelette on the wire over Niagara Falls, London, 1897; André Gide, writer, Nobel laureate 1947, Paris, 1951.

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Roads

Wales and West: A35: Temporary traffic signals at Bow Bridge, Loughborough, Devon. A30: Temporary traffic lights at Whiddon Down, Sticklepath, Loblith, Leddown between Exeter-Launceston. A417: Diversions via new northern by-pass, Gloucester. (Old A40) St Oswald's Road.

North: Liverpool: Queensway tunnel closed tonight, all traffic is being diverted via the Liverpool Wirralway tunnel, 9.15pm to 5.45am. A6: Replacement of sewer at Kirkland, Kendal. A691/A692: Stage 1 - Roadworks, co Durham. Leadgate by-pass.

Scotland: A7: Surface damage and road widening, two sets of single lane traffic controlled by lights, south of Gorebridge. A803: Major road reconstruction along Springfield Road, near Hawthorn Street, Glasgow. Lane closures and delays. A823: Bridge parapet damage, 24 hour traffic signals, Perthshire, south of Glendevon.

Information supplied by the AA.

The papers

The Washington Post says that the United States has failed miserably in two purposes in Lebanon. It failed in the goal it professed - to reconstitute a peaceful sovereign Lebanon, and it failed in the goal its critics attributed to it - to strengthen a client Lebanon serving the various ends of American and Israeli policy.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.59	1.51
Austria Sch	28.45	26.85
Belgium Fr	84.75	80.75
Canada \$	1.86	1.79
Denmark Kr	14.65	13.95
Finland Mk	8.65	8.25
France Fr	12.25	11.75
Germany DM	4.00	3.82
Greece Dr	164.00	154.00
Italy Lira	11.50	10.90
Japan Yen	1.30	1.24
Netherlands Gld	2460.00	2360.00
Norway Kr	351.00	335.00
Portugal Esc	4.54	4.32
Spain Pta	11.52	10.92
Sweden Kr	199.00	189.00
Switzerland Fr	1.96	1.82
USA \$	227.50	218.50
Yugoslavia Dnr	11.97	11.37
	1.30	1.13
	1.49	1.44
	213.00	203.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 7C (49F); min 6 pm to 8 pm, 1C (34F). Humidity: 6 pm, 72 per cent. Rain: 24 to 5 pm, 0.1 in. Bar: mean sea level, 6 in, 1,027.8 in. Haze: 1,000 metres - 29.53 in.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: 10.5C of Solihull, 11C (52F); lowest day temp: 0.5C of Epsom, 0.1C (32F); highest night temp: 1.0C of Solihull, 1.1C (34F); lowest night temp: -0.1C of Epsom, -0.2C (32F).

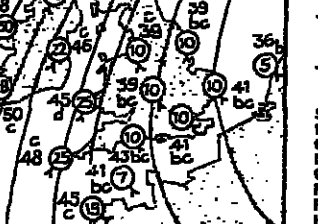
Weather

Ridge of high pressure covers NW Europe. Trough of low pressure is moving from Atlantic towards W.

London, SE, Sun & M. England, E. Angles, E. Midlands: Dry, fog patches slowly dispersing, sunny intervals developing; wind variable light, max temp 10C (50F).
W. Midlands, Cam N, NE England: Dry, sunny intervals, fog slowly dispersing; wind S light; max temp 10C (50F).
Channel Islands: Dry, sunny intervals; wind S light; max temp 10C (50F).
SW, NW England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland: Rather cloudy, mainly dry, occasional rain later, wind S moderate or fresh; max temp 10C (50F).
Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Orkney Islands, Shetland: Mainly dry, sunny intervals becoming cloudy later; wind S moderate to fresh, max temp 10C (50F).
NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Inland: Mostly cloudy, outbreaks rain or drizzle on exposed coasts and hills, more widespread rain later, wind S fresh or strong; max temp 10C (50F).

SEA PASSAGES: N. North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind S moderate becoming fresh, but visibility moderate, but some coastal fog patches at first, sea slight becoming moderate. St George's Channel: Wind S moderate increasing fresh of storm, with occasional rain later, visibility moderate, sea moderate becoming rough. Irish Sea: Wind S fresh increasing gale, occasional rain, visibility moderate, sea moderate becoming rough.

NOON TODAY
Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain in W; sunny intervals in E with overnight frost and fog; normal temp in W, rather cold in E.



TODAY
Sun rises: 7.10 am
Moon sets: 8.21 am
Sun sets: 5.20 pm
Moon rises: 7.26 pm

TOMORROW
Sun rises: 7.08 am
Moon sets: 8.14 am
Sun sets: 5.22 pm
Moon rises: 7.53 pm

Last quarter: February 23.

Yesterday

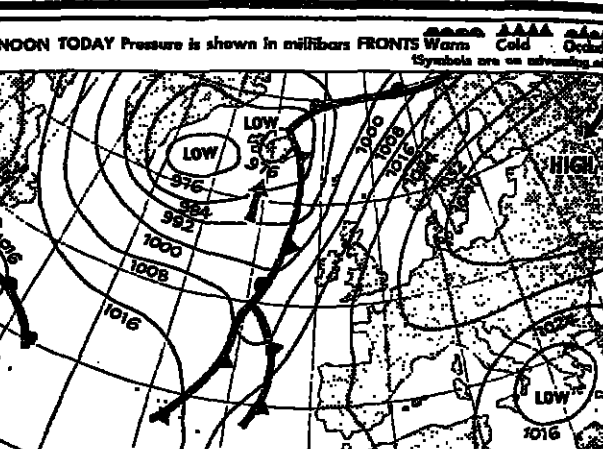
Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; F, fair; S, sun; B, rain; H, heavy rain; L, light rain; M, mist; N, snow.

Lighting-up time

TODAY
London 5.50 pm to 6.30 am
Bristol 6.00 pm to 6.40 am
Edinburgh 5.50 pm to 6.30 am
Manchester 5.50 pm to 6.30 am
Penzance 6.14 pm to 6.57 am

Tomorrow

London 5.50 pm to 6.30 am
Bristol 6.00 pm to 6.40 am
Edinburgh 5.50 pm to 6.30 am
Manchester 5.50 pm to 6.30 am
Penzance 6.14 pm to 6.57 am



High tides

	AM	HT	PM	AM	HT	PM
London Bridge	2.05	7.5	2.13	2.05	7.5	2.13
Aberdeen	2.05	7.5	2.13	2.05	7.5	2.13
Aberystwyth	2.05	7.5	2.13	2.05	7.5	2.13
Amble	2.05	7.5	2.13	2.05	7.5	2.13
Amthorpe	2.05	7.5	2.13	2.05	7.5	2.13
Amthorpe	2.05	7.5	2.13	2.05	7.5	2.13
Amthorpe	2.05	7.5	2.13	2.05	7.5	2.13
Amthorpe	2.05	7.5	2.13	2.05	7.5	2.13
Amthorpe	2.05	7.5	2.13	2.05	7.5	2.13
Amthorpe	2.05	7.5	2.13	2.05	7.5	2.13

Around Britain

	Max	Min	Max	Min
Scarboro	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.4
Scarboro	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.4
Scarboro	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.4
Scarboro	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.4
Scarboro	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.4
Scarboro	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.4
Scarboro	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.4
Scarboro	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.4
Scarboro	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.4
Scarboro	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.4

Abroad

	Max	Min	Max	Min
Algeria	11	4	11	4
Algeria	11	4	11	4
Algeria	11	4	11	4
Algeria	11	4	11	4
Algeria	11	4	11	4
Algeria	11	4	11	4
Algeria	11	4	11	4
Algeria	11	4	11	4
Algeria	11	4	11	4
Algeria	11	4	11	4

* Denotes Thursday's figures are latest available

Toast both sides in Portugal

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